

# Jordan Times

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## Riots in Mauritania; curfew announced

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Riots broke out in the streets of the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott Sunday and the authorities announced a curfew starting at 7 p.m. local. Young Mauritians took to the streets to protest against sharp price rises and a sudden fall in the value of the ouguyia, the Mauritanian currency, witnesses said. All shops were closed. Riots police fired tear-gas to disperse the demonstrators, state radio announced the curfew. Official currency rates released Sunday showed the ouguyia had lost 22 per cent of its value against the U.S. dollar and 23 per cent against the French franc. The bank's foreign exchange bulletin quoted it at 106 to the dollar, compared to a previous rate of 82.55, and at 22.29 against 17.25 to the franc. Planning Minister Mohamed Ould Michel later announced a 20 per cent devaluation in a radio statement due at 3 p.m. local time. The Mauritanian government, anxious to win international financial backing and reach the foreign debt more than \$2 billion, has been in talks with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank for several months. Mauritians, sensing that a devaluation was inevitable, have been stocking up on consumer goods.

## El Al cargo plane explodes; dozens said killed

AMSTERDAM (AP) — An Israeli El Al cargo jet exploded Sunday night over a densely populated suburb near Schiphol airport, reportedly killing dozens of people. Air traffic officials said they suspected a bomb because there were no prior reports of trouble on board the 747. But Israeli army radio quoted security sources as saying the explosion was not "terrorist" related and that one of the pilots was heard complaining of a problem with one of the engines. Dutch television said there were dozens of fatalities as flaming debris from the wreckage showered a large apartment complex in an Amsterdam suburb. Israel Radio said there were four crew members on the cargo jet. Radio reports said the plane may have been returning after an earlier takeoff. "Airport officials did not immediately provide details on the accident," they said. "They saw a large fireball. As it was dark and clear conditions, they could see it happen," said a KLM Royal Dutch Airways official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Dutch radio reported chaotic scenes with ambulances rushing victims to hospitals. El Al routinely receives high security protection at Schiphol airport and the Israeli freight carriers have no identification on their bodies. The airline's much-vaunted security checks can take hours.

## Assad offering 'total peace' in return for full Israeli pullout, Dumas reports

Combined agency dispatches

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER Roland Dumas said Sunday that President Hafez Al Assad told him Syria was prepared for "total peace" with Israel in exchange for full withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

"In the course of our conversations, President Assad referred to Syria's declaration ... that it is ready for total peace with Israel in exchange for total withdrawal," Mr. Dumas told reporters in occupied Jerusalem.

The Syrian authorities believe their declaration requires a declaration in return. Then if discussions occur, they must happen within the current framework," Mr. Dumas said after separate meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

called for a Syrian-Israeli summit to advance peace talks and there was widespread speculation Mr. Dumas, who is on the last stage of a lightning tour of Syria, Egypt and Israel, would try to arrange it.

But Syria ruled out a summit, saying Israel was trying to undermine the established framework of Middle East peace talks.

Both sides reported some progress in the latest round of talks which ended last week and resume on Oct. 21.

dispute details of withdrawal from the strategic plateau until Syria commits itself to peace with open borders and exchange of embassies.

He described his visits to Egypt and Israel as "warm and fruitful."

After meeting Mr. Dumas, Mr. Peres expressed disappointment that Syria had not agreed to take part in multilateral Middle East talks on regional issues such as



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets with a delegation representing the Israeli Arab community (Photo by Yusef Al 'Amm)

## King meets Israeli Arab group, promises action on their requests

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein pledged Sunday to ease restrictions on Israeli Arabs travelling to Jordan and expressed confidence that justice and right would prevail in the quest for a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The promise came in response to a plea by a group of 10 Israeli Arab notables, who arrived Friday in an unprecedented visit to convey well wishes to the King after recent surgery.

The King told the delegation that Jordan aims to achieve a just peace acceptable to the future generations. "A peace that would ensure the reestablishment of justice and the return of the rights to their owners..."

judgement by the future generations on their predecessors," the King said.

He said he was honoured by the overwhelming affection accorded to him by the people: "I cannot find the proper words to express my true feelings towards the people but I do hope that you will accept my gratitude and appreciation and will convey my genuine affection and appreciation to the steadfast people in their homeland," the King said.

The delegation is comprised of Muslim clergymen, judges, mayors, writers and academics. The trip was arranged by Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs department in occupied Jerusalem.

lim shrines in the occupied territories.

Abraham Nimr Hussein, mayor of the town of Shafa Amr, appealed to the King "to lift restrictions on our travel to Jordan so that we could strengthen relations with our families after long years of separation."

The mayor urged Jordan to allow Israeli Arab students to enroll at Jordanian universities and to double the number of Israeli Arab Muslims allowed to transit in the annual pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. The current number is about 2,500.

"We will study your demands and we shall fulfill them in the

## Kuwait hints its mediation is cooling Saudi-Qatari dispute

DOHA (Agencies) — Kuwait hinted Sunday that its crown prince was helping to cool Qatar's dispute with Saudi Arabia over a border clash last week that left two people dead.

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is also Kuwait's prime minister, paid quick visits to Qatar and Saudi Arabia over the weekend.

He conferred in Doha with Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who is acting as ruler in place of his vacationing father, and in Jeddah with King Fahd. No details emerged in either the Qatari capital or the Saudi summer capital.

But the official Qatari News Agency (QNA) said Sheikh Saad

cabled his Qatari counterpart expressing gratitude for the spirit demonstrated.

The Kuwaiti leader "expressed his deep appreciation for the firmness demonstrated by the crown prince over bolstering cooperation and understanding and strengthening brotherhood and solidarity among the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)," the agency reported.

Qatari, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, along with Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are members of the council, an economic and security alliance founded in 1981.

Border disputes have pervaded the oil-rich region since British

colonial times and exist among the council's member states as well as with non-GCC states such as Iran, Yemen and Iraq.

Aside from its dispute with Saudi Arabia, which only broke out openly last week, Qatar also has gone to the International Court in the Hague to try to settle a territorial water dispute with Bahrain. Saudi Arabia had been mediating between Qatar and Bahrain in their dispute.

The Qatari-Saudi dispute flared Wednesday when the Qatari military command said Saudi forces attacked its Al Khofa border post, killing two soldiers and capturing a third.

(Continued on page 5)

## Iraq to press on with oil export negotiations

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq Sunday dismissed as illegal a Security Council resolution to seize frozen Iraqi oil assets and said it was determined to press on with negotiations over a partial resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

Finance Minister Ahmad Hassan Khudayer said Iraq would pursue its plan to seek U.N. permission to export oil worth \$4 billion over six months.

This could be extended for six months more to help provide food, medicine and humanitarian needs for Iraqis, he said.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted him as saying that if the U.N. accepted the plan, "that will help provide the source of living for the Iraqi people from the north to the south."

Mr. Khudayer urged banks with Iraqi assets "not to respond to the illegal aims of this resolution

and to safeguard international banking laws by leaving the assets intact."

He described the resolution as "one of the unjust decisions taken by the security council against our country at the instigation of ... the United States."

He also urged finance ministers of countries "especially those not under the American domination ... not acknowledge the resolution so as to foil its aims," INA said.

Iraqi officials say that if the frozen funds are seized the Iraqi government will have trouble sustaining the rationing system which meets about half of Iraq's food needs.

Iraq has been using some of the funds to buy goods exempt from

## Four more said held in Nafeer case

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four more arrests in the Sheikh Al Nafeer Al Islami case in which deputies Laith Shihab and Yusef Qarnah and two others are on trial were reported Sunday.

According to the French News Agency Agence France Presse which quoted judicial sources, in addition to the arrests of four people security authorities also found a cache of arms and ammunition during raids on three houses in Amman. Also found were "documents" related to the Al Nafeer group, according to the sources quoted by the agency.

No further details were immediately available except that the arrests and raids were conducted in the presence of State Security Council President Major Mahmud Hijazi.

(Continued on page 5)

## Seizure of oil funds a severe blow to Iraqis

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations' seizure of Iraqi oil funds abroad has brought to a complete halt all negotiations and possible contracts between the Iraqi government and foreign suppliers; it signals a dramatic cut-down in Iraqi imports of basic foodstuffs and a consequent worsening of the market situation in two to three months, merchants and experts on Iraq said Sunday.

Although most of the funds ordered seized by the Security Council in a vote Friday night are held in the United States, European banks holding non-oil funds of Iraq are now balking at entering any such arrangements with Baghdad to finance Iraq's imports of essentials such as rice, sugar, wheat, milk powder, cooking oil etc., Amman-based businessmen said.

"Ever since the idea of the resolution was reported three weeks ago, European banks have been dragging their feet," said one of the businessmen, known to be acting on behalf of the Iraqi government in purchasing basic foodstuffs.

"Several European banks went to trouble of sending us messages Saturday, which is a holiday, stating that they have frozen all arrangements until further notice," he added. "We hope this is only temporary since the U.N. vote does not cover Iraqi accounts holding funds deposited prior to the Gulf crisis."

The Security Council first voted to freeze all Iraqi assets abroad on Aug. 3, 1990, one day after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In April 1991, after the liberation of Kuwait, the Council, in a ceasefire resolution, left it to individual government's discretion to unfreeze the assets.

Consequently, only a handful of countries volunteered to release Iraqi bank accounts and assets held with them.

Britain released \$127 million in Iraqi bank accounts after Baghdad freed two detained Britons and Italy released \$11 million; both releases were conditional that the funds would be used to purchase food and medicine exempt from the sanctions.

However, the cash-strapped Iraqi government has entered hundreds of import contracts which were financed by "frozen assets" — i.e. the suppliers' bank is guaranteed that the payment for the goods would be made as and when the concerned government decides to unfreeze the accounts. The contract value is automatically adjusted to reflect interest on value is automatically adjusted to reflect bank interest on the deferred payments and banks which hold the frozen assets are a party to these agreements obviously with the lack

agreement of their governments. By and large, these contracts accounted for most of the foodstuffs reaching Iraq and distributed by the government at subsidised prices in the past one year, according to experts and banking circles in Jordan who also estimate that the total amount involved could be around half of the \$4 billion-plus in Iraqi assets abroad.

Western reports have said that Iraq managed to meet the rest of its needs from other sources, including gold sales and the "personal bank accounts" of President Saddam Hussein. Except for a one-time sale of gold to purchase Australian wheat earlier this year, no other instance of the Iraqi government paying directly for imports from the so-called personal account has been reported.

In addition, private sector Iraqi businessmen were encouraged to import goods in to the country

after a series of tough restrictions were removed. However, the flow of private sector imports into Iraq dwindled after a crackdown on "profiteering" launched in July with the execution of over 40 merchants.

## Under The Patronage Of H.R.H. PRINCESS ALIA BINT AL HUSSEIN

An important auction will be held in cooperation with the Society for Development and Rehabilitation of Country Women A unique collection of Persian carpets, Oriental and European works of art at the Philadelphia Hotel Inauguration: Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. Auction: Wednesday Oct 7 at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Guest of honour: The Egyptian expert Saad Al Masri. We welcome your exhibits at the Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 663100



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FOR RENT



# Kuwaitis elect full parliament today

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis held their first exercise in democracy since the Gulf war Monday, voting in all-male elections for the country's first fully-elected parliament in six years.

In the absence of public opinion polls, it is virtually impossible to tell what the outcome will be or the turnout in a poll that many Kuwaitis see as a major step towards greater democracy and freedom after the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation.

Only men aged 21 or over who can trace their roots in the emirate before 1920 may cast ballots. Some 81,400 voters — one in seven of Kuwait's 600,000 nationals — have registered to vote for the 50-seat parliament.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will appoint a new cabinet two weeks after the polls. Ministers will according to the constitution become members of parliament.

A motley collection of opposition groups are fighting the election, often competing for the same votes against generally pro-government candidates who shun political issues and focus on what services they can offer their constituents.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah came out in favour of widening the limited electorate, including giving the vote to women — an issue that has dominated much of the hotly-contested campaigning.

"It is necessary to give the voting right to Kuwaiti women," Sheikh Saad, who is also prime minister, said in a recorded Kuwaiti television interview shown Saturday night.

Although he said he favoured widening the electoral base, Sheikh Saad said it was up to the new parliament to decide whether to give women the right to vote, lower the minimum voting age and ease nationality conditions on voters.

The majority of the 278 candidates say they favour letting women vote and stand for parliament. Only the Islamic popular movement of conservative Sunni Muslims, fielding seven candidates, is unenthusiastic, diplomats say.

U.S. Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger has said he was disappointed Kuwait was denying women the vote.

Another issue hotly debated in the election campaign was whether Kuwaitis were partly responsible for conditions that encouraged Iraq to invade the emirate on Aug. 2, 1990 and for prolonging the occupation.

The crown prince said the government "will not stand against going into the file of Aug. 2, 1990, in light of persistent demands to open this file currently being raised at some of the election offices."

"Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones," he added, apparently saying that if there were any blame, it would not be the government's alone.

Iraqi troops took only a few hours to reach Kuwait City. U.S.-

led allied forces drove them out seven months later.

A leading opposition group, the Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF), says it would press for a parliamentary inquiry to probe what it calls "failure, negligence and carelessness shown by persons in authority before and during the invasion."

Several candidates have complained publicly about the practice of buying or selling votes — sometimes for as much as 3,000 dinars (\$10,000) according to local press reports. "Vote-buying" is illegal.

The main opposition groupings in Monday's election include the KDF, the Islamic Constitutional Movement of Sunni Muslims, the Islamic Popular Movement and the National Islamic Coalition of Shiites.

Among other contenders are a grouping of former members of parliament, the Constitutional Bloc of top merchants from the chamber of commerce and tribal and independent candidates.

Dozens of election meetings took place in tents Saturday night. Officials expected busy campaigning on Sunday night.

One of the best attended meetings Saturday was hosted by independent candidate Khalid Al Adva.

"We don't want people who buy votes to go to parliament," the bearded figure told a crowd of 3,000 sitting near a highway in his suburban constituency. "They are corrupting us."

About 80 men attended a meeting given by the head of the KDF, Abdullah Al Naibari who said he believed the opposition would win a total of 25 to 30 seats.

A leading opposition figure, Hamed Al Jouan, attracted only about a dozen supporters to his meeting.

The following groupings of candidates are contesting the elections Monday. A total of 278 candidates are in the race for 50 seats.

Kuwait Democratic Forum (KDF): The KDF is a radical grouping of leftists and Arab nationalists with eight candidates in the election. Like other opposition groups, it calls for separating the office of crown prince from prime minister.

Abdullah Al Naibari, the head of the KDF, has said his group would press for a committee to conduct a public inquiry in the new parliament into "failure, negligence and carelessness shown by persons in authority before and during the (Iraqi) invasion."

Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM): The ICM is a group of Sunni Muslims. It is fielding five candidates and backing 18 others. It aims to make Kuwait's constitution more Islamic by amending article two that says Islam is a main source of legislation. The ICM wants the article to read

"Islam is the source of legislation." It has joined KDF radicals in calling for the office of crown prince to be split from prime minister. The ICM also opposes granting women the right to vote or stand as candidates.

The Islamic Popular Movement: This group, fielding seven candidates and supporting 12 others, comprises Sunni Muslims who are more fundamentalist than the ICM, diplomats say. It is unenthusiastic about letting women vote or stand as candidates. They support Islamic law, including changing article two of the constitution to make Kuwaiti society more Islamic.

Constitutional Bloc: This bloc has two candidates. It represents top merchants linked to the chamber of commerce. Its leader Jassem Al Saqr, brother of the head of the chamber of commerce, favours splitting the office of crown prince from prime minister.

The National Islamic Coalition: Has four candidates. It is an alliance of Shiite Muslims who favour letting women vote. It favours reopening the "invasion file" into conduct by the authorities after Iraq's invasion.

Parliamentary Grouping of the 1985 Assembly: Some members of the dissolved 1985-86 parliament standing in this election belong to this alliance of 30 candidates, headed by Ahmad Al Saadoun, speaker of the dissolved parliament. Kuwait's last fully-elected parliament was dissolved in 1986 when the government cited a foreign conspiracy against the country.

INDEPENDENTS: The majority of the candidates in the election are independents. They are a mixture of those who support the government, some government opponents and so-called "service candidates" who look after the individual needs of their constituents.

TRIBAL: Tribal candidates generally support the government which has provided economic support for them, diplomats say. They hold their own primaries before the registration of candidates to choose who will represent them in a constituency.

THANKS

The family of Robert Leonard Prather, Jr., (Mr. Bob) wishes to thank the many people and organisations that have shared their good wishes, condolences, and support during this time of bereavement.

## Jibril ready to testify on Lockerbie

DUBAI (R) — Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril accused of links with the 1988 bombing of an American airliner in which 270 people died, says he is ready to tell all he knows to neutral court in Switzerland.

In an interview with the Arabic news magazine Al Wasat, Mr. Jibril also said he met Israeli airman Ron Arad, captured when his plane was shot down over South Lebanon in 1986 and held by Hizbollah.

Mr. Jibril said Arad was in good health when he met him but he was not certain about his fate since. He did not say when the meeting took place.

Mr. Jibril has consistently denied any involvement in bombing Pan Am jet which exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland. He also denied U.S. reports that technical experts from his Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) helped Libyans carry out the bombing.

"Our front has no connection with Lockerbie. I am ready to testify at any court of justice in any neutral country. Especially Switzerland," he told the London-based magazine.

"The Americans do not have any evidence against us," he added.

In the wide-ranging interview conducted by telephone from Mr. Jibril's base in Damascus, he also denied involvement in a plot to overthrow the government in Jordan.

Two Islamic members of the Jordanian parliament have been charged with complicity with the PFLP-GC in a conspiracy to replace the monarchy with an Iranian-style Islamic government.

Mr. Jibril confirmed that he met the two Jordanian deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoubi Qarashi, at a conference in Tehran two years ago called to show solidarity with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

But he said the meeting was only concerned with ways of sustaining the intifada against Israel in the occupied territories and not with Jordanian politics.

Mr. Jibril spoke about his close relations with Iran. And revealed that Tehran channels through his PFLP-GC monthly payments to the families of half the 936 Palestinian who have died so far in the intifada which erupted in December 1987.

But he denied that the aid was as much as \$500,000 per month. "I wish it were true," he added.

## Ghannouchi says Islamic states are not models

PARIS (AP) — The exiled founder of Tunisia's Islamic movement said in an interview published Saturday that existing Islamic nations "are not models but experiences" for others hoping to found an Islamic state.

Rachid Ghannouchi denied reports that Sudan serves as a support or training base for North African fundamentalists.

In an interview with the French daily Liberation he also denied that Saudi Arabia or other governments have provided funds for Muslim fundamentalists in Tunisia, Algeria or their North African neighbours.

Mr. Ghannouchi, 51, in August received a life sentence in a mass trial of Tunisian fundamentalists for attacking the security of the state. He was tried in absentia for the alleged plot to overthrow the government and assassinate President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali.

In the interview from his exile base in London, Mr. Ghannouchi denounced the repression of Tunisian fundamentalists as anti-democratic, affirming that his banned Al Nahda (Renaissance) Party wants to come to power

through political means only. He said that Mr. Ben Ali "has no wish" to bring democracy to Tunisia and uses fundamentalist repression as part of an overall strategy.

Mr. Ghannouchi, who has frequently visited Sudan, as well as Iran and Algeria, reportedly travelling on a Sudanese diplomatic passport, claimed that numerous reports suggesting Sudan has become a support base for North African fundamentalists were propaganda.

"It is a campaign of destabilisation against Sudan ... to discredit it," he is quoted as saying. He also denied accusations that Saudi Arabia, Iran or other Islamic nations financed fundamentalist parties in North Africa.

There have been numerous reports of such financing by Iran and Saudi Arabia of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Mr. Ghannouchi said dialogue between Algerian authorities and fundamentalists was necessary, warning that without it "the nation will head irretrievably towards civil war."

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Farooq Noor 786680 Dr. Zein Zaghoul 638591 Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 88140 Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 749370 First pharmacy 661912 Fardous pharmacy 778336 Al Aqsa pharmacy 670555 Nairosh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 656730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shamsi pharmacy 637660 Nairosh pharmacy 623672 Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID: Dr. Rawdan Al Sand 273677 AL Shawa' pharmacy 273625

ZARQA: Dr. Ziad Hawatneh 992667 Razaiz pharmacy 995119

## Irish president tells Somalis to put down guns

MOGADISHU (R) — Ireland's straight-talking President Mary Robinson, the first head of state to visit starving Somalia, told the ruined country's feuding warlords on Sunday to put down their guns and talk peace.

"As a president and a mother, it saddens me to see so many guns in the hands of so many young children," she told General Mohammad Farah Aidede, one of Somalia's fiercest warlords. Earlier, Ms. Robinson told interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad that the time had come for peace talks.

"I would like to see fewer guns. If you could reduce the amount of guns it would be so important," she told a grave-looking Ali Mahdi at a roadside meeting after crossing the "green line" battlezone dividing the shattered capital. Mogadishu was destroyed by months of vicious street fighting between followers of the two rivals in which at least 30,000 people were killed or wounded.

Throughout the country, now divided up into tribal fiefdoms lorded over by unruly gunmen, some two million people are at immediate risk of death through starvation. "I would like to tell Ireland and the world that Somalis are talking to each other and are committed to negotiations," Ms. Robinson told Mr. Ali Mahdi. "Somalis are ready to have peace and to come together and discuss matters," he replied.

ALGERIA sets up anti-terrorism courts

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's new anti-terrorism law came into effect Sunday, setting up special courts for rapid trials, with sentences ranging from a minimum of five years' jail up to the death penalty. The law promises members of subversive organisations who have not killed anyone they will not face prosecution if they surrender within two months. Those who have killed or permanently

crippled and surrender face 15 to 20 years' jail instead of death. Those surrendering after crimes punishable by life imprisonment will be jailed for 10 to 15 years. The courts will judge "terrorists" aged 16 and upwards for offences including attempted killings, undermining security, threatening Algerians' freedom or property, or disrupting free movement on the public highway. People who encourage such offences, including reproducing tracts or tapes, face five to 10 years' imprisonment.

AMF to appeal for damages

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) is to appeal to a British court for compensation related to a bribery case involving its previous chief, Jawad Hashem. The Arab World's main financial institution said in a statement on Saturday that a London court last week convicted Mr. Hashem of receiving a \$1.8 million bribe to award a building contract for the AMF's imposing Abu Dhabi headquarters. But the court refused on a technicality to award the damages demanded by the fund from Mr. Hashem and the contractors who were convicted of bribing him — Bernard Stanley and Sons Ltd. The AMF said the bribe to the former Iraqi planning minister who headed the fund from 1977-82 was worth about 10 per cent of the total value of the contract awarded to the British company. The fund's main case of fraud against Mr. Hashem, who is believed to be living in Canada, was to be heard by a British court in London next January, it said. The AMF has charged Mr. Hashem and his family with siphoning off some \$50 million of the fund's money. He strongly denies the charges. The AMF said the court on Thursday refused to award damages it ruled that the right to compensation under the law of Abu Dhabi, where the offence took place, was lost due to the time lapse since it happened. The fund said it will appeal the decision.

MARKET PRICES

Uppercase prices in fils per kg.

Apple (red) 600/550

Banana 300/450

Banana (Mekong) 450/400

Beans 400/350

Cabbage 130/80

Carrot 400/350

Cauliflower 250/200

Cucumbers (large) 120/100

Cucumbers (small) 240/180

Eggplant 80/40

Garlic 600/500

Leaves 220/160

Marrow (large) 180/120

Marrow (small) 380/320

Onion (dry) 180/120

Pepper (hot) 200/150

Pepper (sweet) 130/100

Potato 340/280

Tomato 50/30

Fig 360/300

Grape 300/450

Black Grapes 300/250

Green Grapes 350/250

Dates 550/400

Olives 550/500

Parsley 80

meat 80

Pumpkin 320/240

Splashes 300/250



The body of a Turkish sailor killed by a missile fired from the USS Saratoga is carried from a U.S. Marine helicopter at Izmir, Turkey

## NATO chief: Crew, firing system under review for Aegean missile accident

ANKARA (AP) — The chief of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said Saturday that crew error and technical problems were being examined as potential causes of a U.S. missile strike that killed five Turkish sailors during war games.

Investigators were also looking into whether both of the Sea Sparrow missiles fired from the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga hit the Turkish warship, said U.S. General John Shalikashvili, supreme commander of the Atlantic alliance.

A panel of admirals, including Americans and a Turk, convened Saturday aboard the Saratoga to study Thursday's incident and later flew to Ankara, the Turkish capital. Turkey also set up two panels of inquiry.

Gen. Shalikashvili, who arrived in Ankara to meet with Gen. Dogan Gures, chief of the Turkish General Staff, said "human error or mechanical failure" were both being studied.

But the U.S. general dismissed as premature reports that human error was likely to blame for the incident in the Aegean Sea about 130 kilometres off Turkey's western coast.

The Turkish commanding officer, Captain Kudret Gungor, and four crew members were killed aboard the bridge of the destroyer Mavnevet. Eleven others were injured, four serious-

ly. "I was on lookout duty when I saw a flash approaching from the starboard side. I thought it was a tracer bullet, but as I watched it there was a loud explosion, I was thrown on the deck and the bridge was on fire," Tanriyar Aydin, one of the wounded sailors, told Turkish television.

A U.S. military source in Washington said Friday the missile could have been accidentally fired during a maintenance check of its launch system.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the weapon could have been launched in a surface-to-surface mode, which has a six-kilometre range. The Saratoga was about five kilometres from the Turkish vessel.

A NATO spokesman, U.S. Navy Capt. James Mitchell, said Saturday that the report was just "speculations."

"We do not yet know what has happened," he said.

The Turkish press launched its own attacks on the U.S. navy. "Such an accident cannot happen," read the banner headline of Sabah, the largest selling national newspaper. "Stupid Johnny," topped the account in the newspaper Milliyet, in reference to the crew of the Saratoga.

On Friday, Turkey's Anatolia news agency quoted U.S. Rear Admiral Phillip A. Dur as saying

the Saratoga's air-defence system previously fired prematurely but never caused a fatal accident.

During exercises, the weapon system could be fired manually, Anatolia quoted him as saying. However Capt. Mitchell, the NATO spokesman, said that he knew of no previous misfirings from the carrier. He called Anatolia's version Rear-Admiral Dur's comments incorrect.

The stricken destroyer was expected to be towed into its home port of Golecek early Sunday. Its flag was at half staff in mourning.

The 3,370-tonne Mavnevet is a World War II-era destroyer commissioned as the USS Gwin and given to Turkey in 1971.

Mitchell said the U.S. Sixth Fleet Commander, Vice Adm. T. Joseph Lopez, had convened a formal court of inquiry Saturday aboard the Saratoga.

He said the court comprised of U.S. rear admirals Roland Guilbault, John Mazich and Henry Griffin as well as Rear Adm. Lutfi Sancar of the Turkish navy.

The Turkish General Staff and Foreign Ministry also formed separate investigating committees and an American officer had been invited to take part.

The Turkish panels would try to clarify the "possible role of national or ethnic factors as well as assess damage for compensation."

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Irish president tells Somalis to put down guns

MOGADISHU (R) — Ireland's straight-talking President Mary Robinson, the first head of state to visit starving Somalia, told the ruined country's feuding warlords on Sunday to put down their guns and talk peace. "As a president and a mother, it saddens me to see so many guns in the hands of so many young children," she told General Mohammad Farah Aidede, one of Somalia's fiercest warlords. Earlier, Ms. Robinson told interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad that the time had come for peace talks. "I would like to see fewer guns. If you could reduce the amount of guns it would be so important," she told a grave-looking Ali Mahdi at a roadside meeting after crossing the "green line" battlezone dividing the shattered capital. Mogadishu was destroyed by months of vicious street fighting between followers of the two rivals in which at least 30,000 people were killed or wounded. Throughout the country, now divided up into tribal fiefdoms lorded over by unruly gunmen, some two million people are at immediate risk of death through starvation. "I would like to tell Ireland and the world that Somalis are talking to each other and are committed to negotiations," Ms. Robinson told Mr. Ali Mahdi. "Somalis are ready to have peace and to come together and discuss matters," he replied.

### Algeria sets up anti-terrorism courts

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's new anti-terrorism law came into effect Sunday, setting up special courts for rapid trials, with sentences ranging from a minimum of five years' jail up to the death penalty. The law promises members of subversive organisations who have not killed anyone they will not face prosecution if they surrender within two months. Those who have killed or permanently

crippled and surrender face 15 to 20 years' jail instead of death. Those surrendering after crimes punishable by life imprisonment will be jailed for 10 to 15 years. The courts will judge "terrorists" aged 16 and upwards for offences including attempted killings, undermining security, threatening Algerians' freedom or property, or disrupting free movement on the public highway. People who encourage such offences, including reproducing tracts or tapes, face five to 10 years' imprisonment.

### AMF to appeal for damages

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) is to appeal to a British court for compensation related to a bribery case involving its previous chief, Jawad Hashem. The Arab World's main financial institution said in a statement on Saturday that a London court last week convicted Mr. Hashem of receiving a \$1.8 million bribe to award a building contract for the AMF's imposing Abu Dhabi headquarters. But the court refused on a technicality to award the damages demanded by the fund from Mr. Hashem and the contractors who were convicted of bribing him — Bernard Stanley and Sons Ltd. The AMF said the bribe to the former Iraqi planning minister who headed the fund from 1977-82 was worth about 10 per cent of the total value of the contract awarded to the British company. The fund's main case of fraud against Mr. Hashem, who is believed to be living in Canada, was to be heard by a British court in London next January, it said. The AMF has charged Mr. Hashem and his family with siphoning off some \$50 million of the fund's money. He strongly denies the charges. The AMF said the court on Thursday refused to award damages it ruled that the right to compensation under the law of Abu Dhabi, where the offence took place, was lost due to the time lapse since it happened. The fund said it will appeal the decision.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Au Claire de la Lune  
18:10 Le Monde Sans Mur  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Close to Home  
21:10 Close to the Dogs  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Code said Cyprus

### PRAYER TIMES

05:04 Fajr  
06:22 (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
12:57 Asr  
15:53 Maghreb  
18:33 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740  
Anglican of God Church, Tel. 622785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624790  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661257  
Terzian Church Tel. 623366

### Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717131

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654222

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 20/23

Aqaba 24/37

Deserts 14/36

Jordan Valley 26/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.

It will be dry, hot and dusty. Winds will be easterly ranging from light to moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly winds, and sea calm.

Weather

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Farooq Noor 786680

Dr. Zein Zaghoul 638591

Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 88140

Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 749370

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## European delegation in Amman to review EC-sponsored projects

By Lamey Salisbury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Marking their first trip to Jordan, members of the European Community's (EC) Committee for the Mediterranean countries have arrived in Amman to review projects begun since the signing of an EC-Jordanian cooperation agreement 15 years ago. The 12-member delegation, which arrived late Saturday, visited the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering and Technology and the Ministry of Planning on Sunday.

Their seven-day itinerary will take them to EC-sponsored projects, which range from water resource research to structural adjustment to private sector development. On Monday, the delegation will visit the Sahab Industrial Estate, where 18 million ECU (about \$23 billion) is invested on training businessmen and opening credit lines to 120-150 small and medium-size com-

panies. "Our criteria is to look into the practical results of our financing," EC Economic Counsellor Jean-Pierre Piarard said, adding that Jordan has had a good track record in carrying out EC-sponsored projects. Since signing a cooperation agreement in 1977, Jordan has received more than 200 million ECUs (about \$250 million). About 60 per cent of the money is in loans and 40 per cent is in grants. EC funds for development and educational projects in the country have increased steadily over the years, from ECU 40 million (about \$50 million) in the first protocol of 1977 to ECU 126 million (about \$150 million) for the fourth protocol scheduled for 1992-1996.

Jordan's per capita share of EC loans and grants is one of the highest in the Mediterranean region. "The EC has quite a favourable relationship with Jordan

partly because of politics and partly because of economics," a member of the delegation told the Jordan Times.

The 12 EC-member states — through the commission and individual states — especially helped Jordan during the Gulf crisis when it faced financial pressures from losing export markets and expatriate remittances. After the Gulf crisis, EC Commission alone supplied about ECU 150 million (about \$186 million) directly to Jordan's Central Bank to adjust the country's balance of payment.

The delegation, scheduled to leave Friday, is composed of representatives from the EC member states, European Investment Bank, the European Council and the commission.

In addition to the Planning Minister, the delegation will meet with Water and Irrigation Minister Samir Kawar and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Central Bank of Jordan.

## Sharif Zeid urges support for cancer centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday called on individuals and institutions to support a national committee in charge of building the Al Amal Cancer Centre. The Prime Minister said that the national committee was undertaking a "humanitarian and noble task, requiring the help and solidarity of the Jordanian public."

"Skilled Jordanian workers and technicians are capable of handling this vital scheme that would offer cancer patients a valuable and humanitarian service," said the Prime Minister.

Sharif Zeid's call came on the third day of a week-long campaign launched by a national committee and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) to raise funds for the JD 14 million project.

GUVS and the national committee started the campaign Friday, saying that a series of events will be organised in the course of the campaign. They include a door-to-door collection drive to raise funds from citizens, a concert, a sponsored march, a soccer game, lectures, seminars and other activities. The door-to-door collection campaign is expected to involve



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

40,000 students from universities, community colleges and schools.

In his address Sunday, Sharif Zeid, who is also the committee's chairman, said he was delighted to be involved in the committee's work.

"I have also had the chance to follow closely the great efforts for setting up this great edifice, which is expected to be a distinguished medical centre, benefiting Jordanian patients and others from Arab countries," said the Prime Minister.

"I deeply appreciate all those who are involved in setting up this great project and I call on the Jordanians to contribute generously towards this important scheme," he said.

He said that he had visited the centre, whose structure is now complete, and was satisfied with the work being done.

## Saudi private sector organises exhibition in bid to enhance trade

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing private sector industries in Saudi Arabia Monday opens an exhibition of products in what organisers describe as a bid to familiarise exporters and industrialists from both sides with each other's capabilities and explore possibilities for exchanging goods and expertise.

"There is a very good appreciation among Jordanian and Saudi importers and exporters of each other's products and we would like to explore the possibilities of enhancing cooperation between the two sides," said Basheer Najjar, head of a local company which has put together the 10-member Saudi delegation's visit to Jordan.

According to Mohammed Al Sabah, Jordan-based president of Saudi-Jordan Trading and Investment Company, there is a wide range of products that Saudis import from Jordan and vice-versa, and the scope of cooperation could expand into exchange of expertise.

Mr. Sabah, a Saudi national, said that in addition to agricultural products, Saudis import pharmaceutical products and canned

foodstuff as well as industrial products from Jordan.

The Saudi exhibition, which opens at the Philadelphia Hotel Monday, will present a "few samples" of Saudi-manufactured products such as biscuits, traffic signs, building material and insulation.

"It is an equal-opportunity approach," said Mr. Sabah. "Jordanian products have mostly integrated themselves into the Saudi market and enjoy a qualitative edge over competitive products from other Arab countries."

Similarly, there is a good appreciation of Saudi products among Jordanians although they are little expensive," he added, explaining that the "durability and performance of Saudi products make it attractive for Jordanian buyers despite the higher price."

According to Mr. Sabah, Saudi Arabia exports many of its products "all over the world — Europe, the United States and other Arab countries — and those products are known for their quality."

Mr. Najjar said that the relatively low cost for inland transport between Saudi Arabia and Jordan as well as the relatively large manufacturing capabilities of Saudi industries were two fac-

tors that could contribute to furthering trade between the two sides.

It is the first visit of a Saudi trade delegation to Jordan in many years, and it coincides with a gradual thaw in the strain in relations between Amman and Riyadh which resulted from the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Sabah said he had invested in an industrial venture in Jordan and that he was encouraging his compatriots to take advantage of the investment climate in Jordan.

"The Jordanian government has done an excellent job of making the investment climate here attractive," he said. "The labour costs are cheaper than those in Saudi Arabia and the government is offering tax holidays," he said.

Furthermore, "there is no restriction on Saudis investing outside their country," he pointed out.

Regardless of the state of political relations between the two countries, the Saudis have always taken a keen interest in the facilities offered by Jordan, according to Mr. Sabah.

"Indeed the Gulf crisis has left its political fallout, but we hope that these clouds will soon fade away," he added.

## Jordan, Hungary discuss ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Sunday received a Hungarian delegation headed by chairman of the Arab-Hungarian Friendship Society Zoltan Georgy, who is also speaker of the Hungarian parliament.

Mr. Lawzi stressed the importance of forging closer cooperation between Jordan and Hungary in the economic, social, political and humanitarian fields. He pointed out that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, believes in peace, human rights and practices democracy and seeks to find a just, durable and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This solution, he said, should be based on the United Nations Security Council resolutions, international legitimacy and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

However, he said, Israel is obstructing all efforts to establish such peace.

Mr. Lawzi blamed Israel's intransigence and its rejection of the U.N. Security Council resolutions for the failure to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Georgy voiced appreciation of Jordan's position towards the peace process and lauded King Hussein's efforts to establish peace.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat also received the Hungarian delegation and discussed with it means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the parliamentary field.

Dr. Arabiyat said that Jordan prides itself in its democratic spirit, saying that it has become a "model to be followed in the region."

Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour, meanwhile, urged Hungary to buy more of Jordan's products in a bid to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries, which is currently heavily in favour of Hungary.

Hungary, which imports 700,000 tonnes of phosphate from Jordan on an annual basis, can increase its imports of phosphate and can import Jordanian potash in a bid to adjust the balance of trade, said the minister at a meeting with the Hungarian delegation.

The minister said the establishment of a Jordanian trade centre in Budapest and a Hungarian centre in Amman could boost trade between the two countries.

Furthermore, he said, the two countries can set up trade fairs in the capitals of each other in order to promote trade exchanges.

The minister called for a meeting of the Jordanian-Hungarian joint committee to discuss goals and promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The committee, he said, would also be expected to update an agreement between Amman and Budapest on such cooperation.

Mr. Georgy called for joint ventures between Jordan and Hungary in industrial and small businesses.

The recent political changes in Hungary have helped to bring about new situations, opening the way for private enterprises, he said.

Hungary has exported to Jordan \$9 million worth of products in the first half of 1992, according to Ministry of Industry sources.

AMMAN (Petra) — Figures issued by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) suggest that no change is expected in the level of phosphate exports for 1992 despite efforts to widen the market to the Asian continent.

Statistics released by the JPMC Sunday show that 3,122,100 tonnes of phosphate were exported in the first nine months of this year. The figures for August and September were 281,400 and 375,000 tonnes respectively.

This shows that the phosphate industry has still not recovered from the political and economic changes which swept through Eastern Europe in 1990, shattering export figures. A record 2.03 million tonnes of phosphates exported to Eastern Europe in 1989 was slashed to 0.58 million in 1990. The drop was reflected in the net export figures, which continued to fall in 1991 from 6.4 million tonnes in 1989 to 4.9 and

## No change expected in phosphate exports

4.3 million in 1990 and 1991 respectively.

If the monthly export figures for the rest of the year do not exceed the figures for September, the net figure for 1992 exports will be in the region of 4.2 to 4.3 million tonnes showing no change from 1991's figures.

This will probably be reflected in the JPMC's net profits, which were down in 1991 at JD 33.1 million from 1990's JD 44.4 million.

Other figures released show that the JPMC exported 418,459 tonnes of phosphate-based fertilisers to foreign markets in the first nine months of this year. In the company's 28th annual report released earlier this year, the JPMC identified the production of phosphate products, such as fertilisers, as a means of combating the slackness in the raw phosphate export market.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King congratulates Germany, Lesotho

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to German President Richard von Weizsaecker, congratulating him on his country's national day and the second anniversary of Germany's unification. The King wished President Weizsaecker continued good health and happiness and the German people further progress and prosperity. The King also sent a similar cable to King Letsie 2nd of Lesotho, congratulating him on his country's national day and wishing him good health and happiness and his people further progress and prosperity.

### Princess Basma attends celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday joined a celebration organised by scouts and girl guides on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's recovery and safe return home. The celebration was held at the Al Hussein Youth City, and was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Thouran Hindawi, Minister of Higher Education Awad Khleifat and other senior officials. Addressing the celebration, Princess Basma praised the scouts and guides' unique role in organising the extraordinary reception accorded to King Hussein upon his return home.

### Ensour meets Canadian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour Sunday met with the Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson and discussed with him ways of promoting Jordanian-Canadian economic and trade cooperation.

### House panel holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agriculture Committee in the Lower House of Parliament met Sunday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Minister of State Sultan Udwan, and a delegation representing a number of Jordan Valley farmers. Topics discussed at the meeting focused on problems facing the Jordan Valley farmers. Dr. Arabiyat stressed the need to grant more soft loans to farmers.

### Lebanese minister ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Lebanon's Minister of Economy Samir Magdici flew home Sunday after a several-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with Jordanian officials on means of promoting economic and trade exchanges between the two countries.

### Iraq, Jordan sign transport agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Organising the transport of goods and passengers between Amman and Baghdad came under discussion by officials from the two sides in Amman Sunday. Ibrahim Ajarush, president of the Jordanian Land Transport and Abdul Karim Kazem, deputy president of the Land Transport Union in Iraq, led their two sides to the talks, which ended with an agreement on assigning areas where small taxis can stop in Amman and Baghdad to pick up passengers. They also agreed on fixed times for travel between the two countries, and on a number of matters related to organising the movement of trucks between them.

### Chamber of Industry to attend ABCC meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry said Sunday it would take part in an Arab-European seminar to be organised by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) in London.

### Bridges to close Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Only 100 travellers to the occupied Arab territories will be allowed to pass across the King Hussein Bridge Tuesday, according to an announcement by the Public Security Department (PSD). On Wednesday, Oct. 7, the King Hussein and the Prince Mohammad Bridges will remain closed, the PSD said.

## Senator calls for Greater Syria federation

AMMAN — A prominent Jordanian Senator Sunday called for the creation of Greater Syria and urged the leaders of Syria and Jordan to initiate the move by announcing unity between their two countries.

In an open letter to His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafiz Al Assad, Said Al Tal, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and an ex-minister of higher education, said such a move "would be the first step towards realising Arab unity."

In his letter, published in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Dr. Tal detailed his plan for Greater Syria, which envisages a federal state headed by heads of state of the region in turn and running defence, foreign affairs and the economy.

Greater Syria, an old idea promoted at different times by different people, would encompass present-day Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine and Kuwait. According to the Syrian National Social Party, such a state would also include Cyprus.



Said Al Tal

In his long proposal, Dr. Tal, a brother of the late prime minister Wasfi Al Tal, himself a proponent of Greater Syria, proposed that the "United Arab States" would be approached in steps that would start by a declaration of intentions by both King Hussein and President Assad.

The late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein had in the first half of this century advocated the unity of the East Mediterranean Arab region. In 1958, Jordan and Iraq declared unity, but the union came to an abrupt end in July that year when Baathist army officers took power in Baghdad.

Syria and Egypt also attempted an Arab union in 1958, but that also was aborted by Syrian Baath officers in 1963.

## Cultural programme stresses support for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Youth Fraternity Week is the title of a programme which started in Amman Saturday evening and will move to four governorates in Jordan.

The opening day of the programme, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre, included

a number of speeches, poetry recitals, performances by Jordanian and Iraqi troops and national songs.

The event is organised by the alumni club of graduates of Iraqi universities in cooperation with the General Union of Iraqi Youth.

## Jordan sanctions AI branch

By Lamey Salisbury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Eighteen Jordanian human rights groups have received official approval to consolidate their work and form a single Amnesty International (AI) branch.

The Interior Ministry gave the legal consent on Sept. 30 and the groups received the certificate of legal registration on Oct. 1, human rights activist Asma Khader told the Jordan Times Sunday.

The branch will consolidate 18 human rights groups, which, in the past have had their own direct relationship with the London-based, non-governmental organisation.

"Earlier, every group had to have its own relationship with London. Now we can all work together. Registration was very important for us because it gives us the chance to work under the laws, and by working together we can increase the number of AI members in Jordan," said Ms. Khader, who is also coordinator of

Jordan One, one of the 18 groups.

This is the third time the groups have applied for legal status. Their past applications however were submitted before the country embarked on democratic reforms in 1989. The reforms led to the repeal of martial law and the signing of the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the National Charter.

The National Charter includes pledges to defend human rights in the country as set out in international conventions.

The branch is scheduled to hold elections in the next two months for a seven-member executive committee and a 14-member council, responsible for electing the branch's president and secretary-general.

The Jordanian AI branch starts off with at least 250 members, and new associates can vote within three months of joining.

Although Jordanian groups can now benefit from having the AI

name, they will not be seeing any great changes in their finances, Ms. Khader said.

The groups will still depend on local contributions, membership fees, and earnings from special activities.

"We hope that it will be a strong branch and a good example for other countries in the region," the human rights activist said, adding that she expects membership to increase by the "hundreds and hundreds."

A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the meeting, which was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Raed Ben Zeid, reviewed a study drawn up by the ministry about the renovation of the prophet Suleib shrine in the Jordan Valley. The committee decided that its members should visit the site before embarking on further steps in the course of implementing the task. In June of this year, His Majesty King Hussein announced he was making a personal donation to finance the restoration of the shrines, saying that work would first start on two of the tombs in the Jordan Valley and the Grand Mosque in Irbid.

## Bid to restore Irbid's Grand Mosque approved

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Commission renovating and restoring ancient mosques and shrines set up at the tombs of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad met Sunday and announced its approval of a bid by one of the local companies to restore the dome of the old Grand Mosque in Irbid at the cost of JD 5,000.

Meeting under its chairman, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Tamimi, the committee also approved a plan to take aerial photographs of the shrines in the Kingdom through the help of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre at the cost of JD 12,000. The project will help pinpoint the areas that require renovation.

A statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the meeting, which was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Raed Ben Zeid, reviewed a study drawn up by the ministry about the renovation of the prophet Suleib shrine in the Jordan Valley. The committee decided that its members should visit the site before embarking on further steps in the course of implementing the task. In June of this year, His Majesty King Hussein announced he was making a personal donation to finance the restoration of the shrines, saying that work would first start on two of the tombs in the Jordan Valley and the Grand Mosque in Irbid.

## JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO. LTD.



AMMAN - JORDAN  
TENDER INVITATION FOR  
PREQUALIFICATION  
AND BIDDING  
TENDER/5/92

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces tender invitation No. 5/92 for the supply, erection and commissioning of the requirements for Aqaba South Petroleum Installations Project which shall include building of eight crude oil and products storage tanks with a total capacity of (180,000 cubic metres), two spherical or equal storage tanks for LPG with a total capacity of (6,000 cubic metres), one fire fighting water tank with a total capacity of (5,000 cubic metres) and accompanying facilities including steam boilers, ships unloading and loading as well as trucks loading facilities, roads, yards, offices, workshops and all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the installations.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12:00 hours of Monday 19/10/1992, at the company's head office. Prequalification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor, (financial references are to be provided).
2. Technical capability of the contractor, including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms for whom such services were rendered, and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at the First Circle - Jabal Amman, against non-refundable JD (200) per set not later than Thursday 29/10/1992.

Offers should be submitted only by the qualified contractors at the company's head office not later than 12:00 hours of Monday 18/11/1993.

Chairman Board of Directors

THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY /  
NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION  
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present

The Internationally acclaimed

**MUNIR BASHIR**

in a

**OLD RECITAL**

Sat. Oct. 10th, 1992 at 7.00 p.m.

on the terrace of Umm Qais

The performance will be followed by dinner/dance

Contact Romero Restaurant: 644227

The National Music Conservatory: 687620

Ticket: JD 20 including tax and transport  
Bus departs 3.30 p.m.

## Al-Muhaseb Al Mithali wins award

PARIS — Al-Muhaseb Al-Mithali (Ideal Accountant), the Arabic accounting package developed by Ideal Systems of Jordan, was awarded a 4 D Golden Award at the Gala dinner held by ACI, which followed the 1st international 4 D Developer Conference. The 4 D Golden Awards were given in four different categories: Packaged application (French), packaged application (international), companies, people. In the Packaged Applications, the contender had to be a stand alone Macintosh application, compiled and packaged including full manuals. The judges looked at several criteria, among which are the interface, the completeness of the package, and originality. Al-Muhaseb Al-Mithali stood out as an exceptional package, since it was developed in the Arabic language which made it an even more complex task.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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## University for all

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's call Saturday for the establishment of Al al Bait University for the Sciences and Arts, which he stressed should be based on faith and contemporary science together, is in essence a call for opening hab al ijtihad (door of interpretation) in Islam. This particular dimension of the Islamic faith has been effectively closed for over 1,000 years in a way contrary to the true teaching of the religion. Constituting as it does a vital and organic feature of the Muslim religion, its incorporation was intended to inject dynamism into the faith by facilitating reconciliation and harmony between Islam and developing thought and sciences.

By also noting that the international community is moving rapidly in the direction of one universal culture, the aim and purpose of the newly-proposed seat of higher learning, the King suggested, will be to bridge the gap between Islamic and Arab cultures and other worldly cultures and beliefs in the most positive manner.

This is not surprising in view of the early contributions of Islamic and Arab cultures to other civilisations including the West's.

Many historians credit Islam for rapid advancements in the Western civilisation and often described it as the very foundation for the age of enlightenment that spread through Western Europe in the Middle Ages and beyond.

If the new university succeeds in performing the role assigned to it, it would most certainly become a most cherished gift from the Monarch to the Islamic and Arab nations. Yet it must be conceded at the outset that this ambitious aspiration will encounter many difficulties, hardships, and maybe even outright opposition from forces that would prefer the status quo and the keeping of Islam in a static form. No head-on collision should be sought with such elements as those who zealously oppose change for the sake of being difficult and ultra conservative. It would be more prudent to advance the mission of the new university delicately and cautiously, for what is being proposed here is the introduction of a new era in Islam that may not be easily understood and digested.

But to succeed, Al al Bait University would need enlightened scholars from all parts of the Arab and Islamic worlds. While the initiative would remain Jordanian for all times, the implementation of the timely project would call for international Islamic and Arab support. In the final analysis, the purview of the proposed university would have to extend beyond the region to encompass the international arena. For this reason, backing for the university must be drawn from all four corners of the world as well.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE FRENCH embassy statement in Amman Saturday about the mission of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in the Arab countries and Israel was meant to allay fears among Arabs that Paris was trying to act on behalf of the United States in the region, said Al Ra'i daily Sunday. What is important here is the fact that Paris wants the Arab countries to realise that it will by no means approve of or help to attain separate peace treaty between Syria and Israel at the expense of a comprehensive settlement, the paper noted. This statement is worth welcoming by the Arab countries involved in the peace process, the paper added. What the Arab countries and the Palestinians hope to see, the paper said, is a practical step on the part of Paris and its European Community partners to force Israel to succumb to the will of the international community and implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. If a French move is to be made in the direction of giving momentum to the peace process, the paper continued, Paris ought to break the current deadlock in the peace negotiations caused by Israel's intransigence. The Arabs, for their part, have been calling for a European role in ensuring a just and durable settlement, but it was Israel which had been opposing this idea, the paper pointed out. With the start of the Dumas tour in Egypt, Israel and Syria, one can only hope that the French government has at last decided to help the Arabs and the Israelis reach a permanent and comprehensive settlement to their conflict that, lasted for four decades, the paper said.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily demanded that Jordan take the case of continued American naval harassment of Aqaba-bound shipping to the U.N. Security Council. American terrorism is still blocking trading via Aqaba and the Jordanian industry and people continue to suffer as a result of this action, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that the industrial sector in Jordan is facing danger and the Jordanian pharmaceutical products are being prevented from reaching Iraq at a time when the United Nations has allowed humanitarian supplies to be shipped to the Iraqi people. The Americans allow Turkish trucks to reach Baghdad and Syrian lorries, which carry no licence plates, to move across Iraqi territory carrying all sorts of commodities, but the Jordanians are not allowed to ship any medical supplies to the Iraqi people, thus placing continued obstacles in the path of the country's pharmaceutical industry. If the Syrians and the Turks are allowed to ship medical supplies and sell the Iraqis other goods, why can't the Jordanians do the same thing, the writer asked. This terrorism against Jordan should stop as should the false statements accusing Jordan of selling arms to Baghdad, the writer demanded. The writer said that the U.S. administration is allowing false statements about Jordan to surface in a bid to find justification for the continued sanctions imposed on Jordan helped in this evil work by Gulf states and hostile forces working against the Kingdom in collusion with the Zionist enemy.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# There is only one-way for RJ

NO TWO knowledgeable Jordanians would differ on the characterisation of Royal Jordanian (RJ) as a political and economic giant in terms of its services, production and employment. So when its wings are literally and figuratively clipped, the implications are both political and economic. If we can agree on these self-evident propositions, then the well-being or the lack of it of the country's national airline is of concern to us all, politically as well as economically. The best example of this political ramification was during the Gulf war when the Kingdom was literally cut off from the outside world and abandoned by friend and foe alike. The maintenance of RJ's vital links with the outside world was indeed a matter of life or death to the country and its people. Safeguarding such links therefore is essentially a political issue that cannot be determined on pure economic or business-like basis. Not that the business profile of the airline is that negative or insoluble. Far from it. For, in spite of the huge accumulated debt sustained because of the convergence of several factors, some of which were admittedly human error, i.e., wrong investment judgements, some of different nature, i.e., reasons beyond the control of the management of the airline, RJ is swiftly and aggressively recuperating and is well into the money business bracket. All it needs now is some economic appreciation and understanding. No charity is being contemplated for the on-ailing national airline and none is being proposed or sought.

The big political-economic decision that awaits RJ is whether to shrink its network and become smaller and more manageable or to expand and become larger and bigger, especially now that it is

no longer in the red and has realised sizeable gains and profits. If such a decision continues to be viewed as essentially eco-political, then there is every reason to opt for the rapid expansion of the airline. With the prospects of peace increasing every day, the Middle East region can reasonably anticipate a dramatic rise in regional tourism in which Jordan can be expected to perform well and play an important role. This would call for dramatic improvement in the quality and quantity of the services of RJ in order to withstand the increasing competition from bigger airline companies worldwide. In turn, this would change the profile of RJ from a small provincial airline, striving through all sorts of shortcuts to make ends meet and float comfortably to a sophisticated regional airline that could put Jordan again on the map of tourism. In this vein, the Kingdom need not sell itself short for, in addition to its archaeological and historical wealth, it remains an oasis of democracy and liberty, something that tourists insist on nowadays. We need to play up this dimension of political development in the Kingdom and make it an integral part of the campaign to develop the country's tourism industry.

RJ can be an important if not an indispensable instrument for doing just that. By projecting such a sophisticated image of the country worldwide, RJ stands to spread the word around that the country stands out as a fine example of combining beauty and excitement with positive and progressive stability.

Such ambitious goals cannot be attained without a cost. Contemporary travellers are growing more sophisticated than ever and are increasingly conscious of safety based on proper

maintenance as well as comprehensive, exemplary services. RJ's equipment is by and large young, but there are still some pieces that need to be phased out. Likewise, the service on board the planes as well as at checking-in counters and sales offices are good but can be made still better. There is a cultural problem that all Arab airlines have to reckon with when it comes to efforts to upgrade their services; it is linked to the Middle Eastern culture that equates service with servitude. There is not much that RJ can do about this regional attitude except to recruit non-Middle Easterners for on-board services even if that would mean less employment opportunities for the local people.

Our national airline strives continuously to be part of the major league of airlines and there is no way it can attain membership of this prestigious club without improving its performances on a competitive basis. This is where political and economic considerations converge more openly, warranting a more meaningful governmental support to RJ. The absurd squabbling about whether RJ deserves such a governmental intervention or not is a moot question in the light of the pressing political consideration that the almost landlocked Jordan be kept linked with the outside world.

The national security of the country calls for ending the academic debate about what to do with RJ as there is but one responsible answer in that vein and that is to enhance its standing regionally and internationally by treating it in the manner that is commensurate with its indispensable role.

# If the West fails to halt Serbia, the continent could be destabilised

By George Kenney

WASHINGTON — Everything in the Yugoslav conflict follows from Serbia's fundamental goal of creating a larger, ethnically pure state. Only counterbalancing force — Western air power, arms and training for the Bosnians — can halt Serbian aggression.

Only a military standoff will lead to a lasting peace, by reversing Serbian expansion. Consequences will be much more tragic in the former Yugoslavia if the United States and Western Europe do not now intervene militarily.

Thousands of people have already been killed, and the refugee tide is already causing strains in Europe. If nothing is done, hundreds of thousands of innocent people may die, and the refugees will destabilise the continent.

The conflict will spread throughout the Balkans, drawing in Islamic countries. Two NATO members, Greece and Turkey, may take opposite sides. Ultimately, the West may be forced to intervene militarily, but the cost rises exponentially the longer we delay.

Serbia has three short-term strategic aims that it will not abandon unless it confronts a credible deterrent. First, it wants control of a corridor across northern Bosnia, linking Serbia and Serbian-occupied areas of Croatia. Second, it demands an eastern corridor along the Bosnian-Montenegrin border, giving Belgrade access to its only naval base on the Adriatic. A Greater Serbia demands that "ethnic cleansing" continue in these areas until all non-Serbs are killed or driven out. Third, Serbia wants the destruction of Sarajevo, symbol of multiethnic Bosnian statehood.

About 400,000 non-Serb Bosnians remain in northern Bosnia. Most are in a pocket around Biljac in the northwest, surrounded by

Serbian forces. Perhaps an additional 100,000 remain along the border with Montenegro. A "cleansing" of these areas leaves no one to object to local puppet governments that work to "legitimise" a Greater Serbia.

Although Serbian forces have not fully consolidated control over these areas, they have advantages in mobility and logistics. Given current conditions, they will achieve their aims over time.

Nevertheless, in the north and southeast, near the coast, some intense fighting will continue. To the north, Croatia will try to break Belgrade's supply lines and cut off parts of Serbian-occupied Croatia. On the coast, Croatian forces do not intend to cede control of the hills above Dubrovnik. Serbia is equally set on denying Croatia control of this region, which dominates the entrance of the bay leading to Serbia's only naval base.

A further 100,000 or so Bosnians — Muslims and Croats as well as "disloyal" Serbs — are interned in Serbian concentration camps. A typical camp consists of a cattle shed or other structure

housing about a thousand men on straw pallets. Many die of sickness, hunger and beatings; guards dispose of others in "recreational killings." This winter, most internees will die of exposure.

The International Red Cross, the United Nations and the West will continue to demand access to all camps and supervision of camp conditions — demands that the Serbs will continue largely to ignore. Prisoners will be shifted from camp to camp in a shell game while Western negotiators visit detainees in model camps. Western governments will remain loath to force access.

The winter war may take up to 350,000 Bosnian lives. Freezing temperatures will greatly help the Serbian sieges around Sarajevo and other towns. Snow will close roads, some only tracks across mountain-sides. Cuthacks in humanitarian and food aid will hurt; getting fuel to the large towns will be nearly impossible. Scores of besieged hamlets, whose names we do not know, will be wiped off the map.

Belatedly, the West will acknowledge a defeat. Cynically cit-

The writer was the State Department desk officer for Yugoslavia until Aug. 25, when he resigned in protest against U.S. policy. The article is reprinted from the New York Times.



# Saddam turns night into day with rebuilding drive

By Nicholas Rhyddym  
Reuter

BAGHDAD — Night after night, trapped in the lurid glare of spotlights, they toil like ants.

While Baghdad sleeps, the workers rebuilding Baghdad's Souk Hamada slum on the south bank of the Tigris lay bricks in a frantic race against time.

President Saddam Hussein, who has made reconstruction a symbol of Iraq's defiance of the West, has set them a deadline of 122 days to complete the project.

"Our history and reconstruction is the loudest reply," Saddam Hussein's housing minister, Mahmoud Diyab Al Ahmad, said recently, hammering home the message.

He congratulated Saddam Hussein by telegramme on the rebuilding of his principal palace in just 79 days.

National mobilisation, for the most part military, has been the keynote of Saddam Hussein's 13 years as president.

First there was the 1980-88 war with Iran. In August 1990, he invaded Kuwait and rallied his country and parts of the Arab World to his cause with calls for Jihad (holy war).

Seven months later, defeated by a U.S.-led multinational coalition, shaken by revolts in the Kurdish north and mainly-Shiite south and deprived of Iraq's oil wealth by a U.N. trade blockade, Saddam Hussein needed a new rallying cry.

He found it in the wreckage of his country's infrastructure, smashed by the planes and missiles of the United States and its Gulf war allies.

Encouraged, prodded and cajoled by Saddam Hussein, Iraqi construction teams and engineers rebuilt the country's power stations and water and sewage-treatment plants within months of its defeat in Kuwait.

Working day and night, they put back together its oil refineries and pipelines and its shattered telephone exchanges.

The initial diagnosis of international welfare workers that Iraq had been bombed back to the pre-industrial age proved premature.

Undeterred by the trade blockade in force since the invasion of Kuwait, Iraqi workers improvised, cannibalising shattered plants for spare parts.

As the months went by, Iraq repaired battered bridges and government buildings. Saddam Hussein, filmed for prime-time television, toured construction sites praising workers and ordering financial sweeteners.

A Third World diplomat said that the trade blockade had helped the government rally the people after the defeat in Kuwait and abortive revolts in the north and the south.

stronger than a year ago because they have been given the opportunity to mobilise the people," the diplomat said.

The new watchword is self-sufficiency.

"There is a project in the mind of the government to rebuild Iraq depending on local production," an Arab diplomat said.

The building boom helped keep the economy afloat, providing work and taking peoples' minds off the problems caused by rampant inflation.

The rewards for those spearheading the reconstruction drive are real.

Government employees receive bonuses on top of their salaries. Skilled welders contracted for individual projects can earn as much as 300 Iraqi dinars a day — the average monthly wage.

The Military Industrialisation Commission, under Saddam Hussein's son-in-law Hussein Kamal, has played a key role in the reconstruction drive but lately it has been challenged by the Housing and Construction Ministry.

Saddam Hussein, eager for results, has pitted one against the other in a league table based on time spent, cost and quality.

The Housing Ministry rebuilt the presidential palace and has a reputation for quality. But military industrialisation, which has a reputation for putting

speed ahead of quality, pipped it to earn its workers a share in a one million dinar bonus from the president.

The drive to rebuild Iraq after the ravages of the Gulf war continues with bridges, Baghdad's Conference Centre, the Defence Ministry and other official buildings still under reconstruction.

But Saddam Hussein has extended the building boom into other areas.

The massive Third River project, started in 1953 and designed to reclaim salty land between Iraq's Tigris and Euphrates rivers, nears completion.

With construction teams working round the clock, new homes rise on the rubble of Souk Hamada, which was demolished in June on the orders of the president.

Elsewhere the timescale is longer.

The museum-cum-lecture theatre beneath the huge turquoise martyrs monument, which was completed in 1983, echoes to the sound of stone masons chipping out stone and marble plaques.

The plaques, stacked waiting to be fixed to a circular wall under the monument, carry the names of Saddam Hussein's Qadisiyah martyrs — hundreds of thousands of men who died in the first great mobilisation, the bruising eight-year war against Iran.

# Largest library association protests Israeli censorship

The following article is reprinted from ADC Times, a news and opinions publication of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

THE AMERICAN Library Association (ALA) passed two resolutions condemning Israeli censorship and deportation on July 1 during its 111th annual convention in San Francisco. The ALA, the world's oldest and largest library association comprising 52,000 members, called "the government of Israel to end all censorship and human rights violations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and in Israel itself" and protested "the deportation of Omar Al Safi a librarian at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank" from his homeland.

We note that such deportations are strictly prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 by a foreign occupier. The ALA resolutions encouraged members "to develop ways to support librarians, journalists, educators and others working for peace, human rights and freedom of information and expression in the Middle East." Copies of the resolutions were sent to the Israeli government, the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, the Article 19 Organisation, the International

Federation of Library Associations, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

After a heated debate, the resolutions were passed overwhelmingly by both the general membership and the governing council. A turning point in the debate came when Michael Schwartz, an Israeli journalist who was a victim of Israeli government censorship, addressed the convention. Mr. Schwartz told of being imprisoned, at the beginning of the intifada with other members of her editorial staff, from 1983 to 1990, after their Hebrew/Arabic newspaper, Hantizotz/Al Sharara, was closed down by the Israeli government.

She appealed to the ALA to take a strong stand against such Israeli censorship practices. Also speaking at the convention, was Khader Hamide who compared Israeli censorship to the attempt by the U.S. government to censor Palestinian views here in the U.S. by deporting him, six other Palestinian residents and a Kenyan resident, known collectively as the "L.A.-8."

The two resolutions were the culmination of a two and a half year education campaign within the ALA spearheaded by David Williams, Chair of the ALA's International Human Rights Task Force.

## LETTERS

# Cry in the wilderness

To the Editor:

Not so long ago, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, the CBS television network hosted an interview with Henry Kissinger, Fnad Ajami and Dan Rather. All are well-known figures, closely associated with CBS, hence they need no further introduction.

During their speeches, all three, as if triggered by a programmed remote control apparatus, managed between them to heap derogatory remarks and sickly innuendos against the Arabs. Their uncalculated statements took the Arab-American and all fair-minded viewers by surprise. Even such viewers who usually glee over the misery of others, were shocked and took umbrage. In fact, all felt betrayed while watching such an unfair presentation ... being out of context and lacking savoir faire, all attempts at objectivity notwithstanding.

The reaction resulted in demanding a public apology from the three aforesaid gentlemen. And short of taking them to task in a counter-opinion forum, an apology seems to be the last resort.

Nevertheless, the mere cliché-like apology for what they said, and the retracting of what has been willfully fabricated are two different things altogether.

Therefore, if the viewers are willing to forgive and in order to help them eventually to forget, the forthcoming apology by the gentlemen should stipulate adherence to the following text: "We hereby admit that recently we have intentionally and premeditatedly heaped on the Arabs loads of defamatory adjectives. Such baseless, and unfounded adjectives were nothing but figments of our imagination. We therefore wish to retract what was said, trusting that this our admission be accepted as an apology. We also pledge that in the future we shall desist from pursuing further fabrications against the Arabs."

It will be one exercise in extreme naivete to expect these three hard core professional formulators of public opinion to recant. At best, upon reading this article they will simply shrug it off, unbeknownst to them that one of the higher moral traits among the Arabs is their adherence to the principle of condoning and forgiving those who recant and retract; for "to retract from error is a virtue."

Be that as it may, should these three gentlemen elect not to apologise, we deem it imperative that this serious matter be taken up by the appropriate department in the Arab League in order to recommend to the member states to reject granting them entry visas to the Arab World.

I have a feeling that this is a cry in the wilderness. My only consolation, however, is, suffice it to say, no one, so far, is stopping me from listening to the echoes of my own words.

Ludwig W. Tamari,  
Washington D.C.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Kuwait goes to the polls today

(Continued from page 1)

allow you to sit with us. Many people will be offended and it could hurt Mr. Duweileh's chances in the polls."

Women as well as the majority of Kuwaiti nationals will not be voting. Only about 14 per cent — 81,400 of Kuwait's 600,000 citizens — will be entitled to vote for the national assembly under a law which confines suffrage to "first class" males over the age of 21 who can trace their family roots to the emirate to 1920 or earlier.

The Kuwaiti Democratic Forum (KDF) as well as most opposition groups support women's right to vote. Some independent candidates also support full political rights for women. Islamic groups, on the other hand, only support women's right to vote but not candidacy rights religious reasons.

While the Democratic Forum and some independents favour extending full political rights to "second class" Kuwaiti citizens, and see it as a major factor in maintaining internal security, others do not. They say it would change the character of the country.

Other prominent issues on the agenda of most of the opposition candidates include political reform and constitutional reforms to guarantee that democratisation is not reversed; separating the office of the crown prince from that of the prime minister; population structure and the problem of the stateless people, security and the economy, which includes foreign investments, solutions to bad debts and official corruption.

Although the opposition groups agree on major issues, they are fragmented and have had limited success in trying to unite to fight government candidates, who are expected to take at least half the seats.

After liberation, opposition groups formed an alliance pushing for political reforms and a broader sharing of political power. Their main objective was

to gain a majority in the new assembly but as soon as candidacy registration started it became apparent that coordination of fielding candidates in all of the 25 districts to achieve opposition majority was not possible. In fact, in some districts opposition candidates are contesting each other.

According to pundits, voting is likely to follow a familiar pattern where the government will maintain a majority in the national assembly receiving most of its support from areas outside Kuwait City. Opposition groups, receiving their support from districts within Kuwait City, are expected to gain more votes in this election, but they would get only 25 per cent to 40 per cent of the house.

Kuwaitis are watching the elections closely but few Kuwaitis are overly optimistic that the new parliament can bring about a better Kuwait. Their pessimism is fed mainly by a feeling that the trauma of the seven-month Iraqi occupation served no purpose, and that the reigning Al Sabah family failed to learn any lessons from it.

"People were sad and frustrated after the liberation," said Dr. Ghassan Nujjar, a political science professor who runs the Kuwait Association for the Defence of War Victims, the country's only human rights organisation. "They are a bit happier now with election. But they are still cautious. Too many things remain unresolved."

Many Kuwaitis worry that the authorities can at any time dissolve parliament as they did twice in the past — the last time in 1986 — if the opposition raises controversial issues including a demand for clear explanation on what happened before, during and after the Iraqi invasion and mismanagement of public funds.

So Kuwaitis are keeping their options open. They are sending or keeping their money abroad and acquiring assets overseas so that the next time, if it comes, they will be ready.

## Assad offering 'total peace' — Dumas

(Continued from page 1)

security, water and economic development.

Mr. Dumas announced that French President Francois Mitterrand would visit Israel on Nov. 26, his first visit to the Jewish state in 10 years.

Mr. Dumas said nothing about a possible summit between Syrian President Assad and Mr. Rabin. Israeli newspapers had said that during his trip Mr. Dumas would try to arrange a meeting between the two leaders.

"I have noticed from Shimon Peres' visit to Paris a clear desire

for progress in the peace process. I have also seen a similar desire through my visit to Damascus," Mr. Dumas told reporters in Cairo.

Mr. Dumas arrived in Cairo from Syria where he held talks with Mr. Assad. He met with President Mubarak for 90 minutes and then with Mr. Musa and flew to Israel after the meetings.

Mr. Peres, who visited Paris last month, proposed the Assad-Rabin summit in an address to the U.N. General Assembly earlier in the week but Mr. Rabin said this was premature.

## King

(Continued from page 1)

nearest possible future," the King replied.

Mr. Hussein noted that the Palestinian people have been steadfast and offering sacrifices as they have deep faith in their just cause.

He thanked the King for his continued support for the Palestinian struggle, noting that the Palestinian people were willing to offer further sacrifices to achieve their national objectives. He also thanked the King for his personal

donation towards the renovation of holy shrines in Jerusalem, and said the Palestinian people take deep pride in the King's national stands and leadership.

Another member of the delegation, Sheikh Tawfiq Assalieh, congratulated the King on his safe return after surgery. He repeated the same requests put forth by Mr. Hussein.

The audience was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Khaled Karaki and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Tamimi as well as Ministry Secretary-General Ahmad Helayel.

## Kuwait hints mediation is working

(Continued from page 1)

The Saudis expressed astonishment and said the Qataris were exaggerating. They said the exchange of fire involved only Qatari bedouins and Saudi bedouins — rather than Saudi troops as Qatar claims. It said two people were killed, a Qatari and a Saudi, and a second Saudi was wounded.

Iran invites UAE to talks

Iran Saturday called for more talks with the UAE to settle a dispute over three strategic Gulf islands and rejected allegations that its rearming programme pointed to expansionist intentions.

The official Islamic Republic

News Agency (IRNA) said the country's Supreme National Security Council met under President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

In a statement carried by IRNA, the council expressed surprise at the "suspicious" declarations in some Arab Gulf states suggesting Iran has territorial ambitions beyond its borders.

"The military strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran ... is used solely to defend the national interests of the country, and Iran has never intended to use it for expansionism and aggression against others," said the statement.

## Seizure of funds severe blow for Iraqis

(Continued from page 1)

One of the provisions in Friday's resolution was that outstanding claims on Iraq by a country (or companies operating out of that country) could be deducted from the oil funds and only the balance has to be transferred to the U.N. account. Under no circumstances will an individual country be asked to transfer more than \$200 million.

But the problem is, the businessman explained, "such arrangements will now expose the dealings that governments and banks have had with Iraq after the imposition of sanctions and this would be politically explosive for many of them."

"Perhaps this is one of the hidden motives behind the U.N. vote, which could open a Pandora's box," he added.

The businessman declined to name any of the countries involved, but other informed sources said these included Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland.

In practical terms, the bulk of the \$4 billion plus in Iraqi funds frozen abroad is from oil sales prior to the imposition of the sanctions; a small portion is proceeds from the sale of petroleum products such as sulphur and urea.

"Most banks say they are willing to honour the agreements that have already been signed, but, over the past two weeks, they have been saying that all future contracts have to be frozen until the situation is clear," said the businessman.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi people, already straining under the impact of the sanctions in the form of skyrocketing prices, stand to suffer.

According to a medical doctor who has been involved in relief efforts for the Iraqis after the Gulf war, it is difficult to determine the extent of goods going into Iraq financed by drawings on the frozen assets.

"It will be difficult to assess the immediate impact of the U.N. seizure since we do not know what percentage of the present flow is financed from the frozen

accounts," said the doctor, who preferred anonymity. "However, the international banking community and manufacturers as well as suppliers are going to be very reluctant to enter any arrangement with Iraq based on the frozen accounts since the prospects of getting paid for their exports are grim in the short and medium terms."

"In a way the Security Council vote has tightened the sanctions noose against Iraq, by depriving the Baghdad government of whatever flexibility and loopholes existed so far," he added.

In the short term, merchants and middlemen are certain that there are going to be shortages in the Iraqi market.

"The evident delays in concluding contracts is going to reflect negatively on the flow of goods reaching Iraq," said a Jordanian commodity broker.

"The delivery timings of the various contracts are too close to call and any snag in the arrival of essentials such as rice, wheat, cooking oil, sugar etc. are going to be translated as shortages in subsidised products distributed by the government," he added.

The rationed quantity of subsidised essentials meets less than half the needs of an average Iraqi family, said an Iraqi exile living in Jordan. "People have to turn to the black market for the rest of the needs at high prices. With prices as they are in the market today, it will be a disaster if there are any cut-down in the subsidised products."

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For more information, please contact the French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009, Jebel Webdeh, Amman.

## POSITION VACANCY

### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

The U.S. Agency for International Development is seeking to fill a senior level position of a Project Development Specialist. Applicants should have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economics, law or accounting. Some graduate or specialized training in a field relevant to the Development Assistance is desired. Four to seven years of progressively responsible professional level experience in a relevant field, including experience in the analysis and interpretation of data and the presentation of findings in written and oral form is required. However, graduate degrees such as an M.A., M.S. PhD, etc., may be substituted for portion of work experience. At least three years of the work experience should have been in development assistance or related work for AID, other donor organisations, host government or private sector institutions.

Interested Jordanian candidates who believe they have the required qualifications to fill this position may apply in writing by submitting an application to the USAID Executive Office/Personnel Section no later than October 20, 1992. Application forms are available at the American Embassy, Abdoun area - front gate.

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Financial Markets  
In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman BankForeign Exchange Market Summary  
(September 28, October 2)

AMMAN — The dollar slid to its pre ERM crisis levels last week, as market focus was steered back to U.S. economic fundamentals. The weak U.S. economic recovery and the wide interest rate differential served to undermine the dollar, which ended the week 0.9 per cent lower against sterling, an average of 5.2 per cent lower against European currencies, and 1.3 per cent lower against the yen.

As ERM tensions subsided, market participants reverted their attention towards the economic fundamentals of the U.S. economy, which was still producing signs of a stubbornly slow recovery. The U.S. unit thus skidded considerably against European currencies during the first three days of the week. Traders increased their short dollar positions in anticipation of a weak September U.S. employment report at the end of the week, followed by a Fed interest rate cut.

Against the yen, trading was quiet and subdued as Japanese firms closed their books for the end of the first half of their fiscal year. Market reports were persistently pointing to the view that the yen's rally over the previous two weeks will not be long lived. Several Japanese officials were even quoted implying an intervention to halt the yen's appreciation, if need be.

The dollar thus closed Monday, at what proved to be its closed highest level of the week against the mark, at 1.4510 marks, but closed at its lowest against sterling Tuesday at 1.7865 dollars to the pound. Against the yen, the dollar closed Tuesday at its lowest level of the week, at 119.25 yen, but rose slightly to 119.90 yen the next day, its highest closing level.

Thursday on the other hand witnessed a modest dollar rebound against European currencies, sterling in particular. A revival of tensions between London and Bonn, triggered by a controversial Financial Times editorial, undermined the pound. The U.S. currency's rebound against the mark, on the other hand, was attributed to rumours of a possible Bundesbank interest rate cut. In the U.S. however, economic statistics released during the day reported a worse than expected drop in September's index of purchasing management, from 53.7 per cent to 49 per cent, an indication of contraction in U.S. manufacturing.

The release of a better than expected U.S. September Employment report Friday, prompted a wave of profit-taking on dollar short positions, as traders could not see the Fed lowering interest rates there and then. The U.S. currency was thus pushed to an intra-day high of 1.4360 marks. The statistics reported a drop of 57,000 in non-farm payrolls, or a gain of 40,000 when adjusted for seasonal distortions.

The dollar retreated later on, however, as market assessment of the data pointed to a status-quo in U.S. economy, which was even more pronounced when taken in the over-all context of economic statistics. Observers were particularly worried by the drop of 26,000 in the Manufacturing sector's payrolls, and the drop of 1.9 per cent in August's Factory Orders. Many traders held to the view that it was only a matter of time before a Fed interest rate cut, possibly within a week!

## New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	25/9/92 Close	2/10/92 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.7125	1.7285	0.93%
Deutsche Mark	1.4835	1.4995	5.25%
Swiss Franc	1.2325	1.2315	-0.34%
French Franc	5.0124	4.7700	5.08%
Japanese Yen	120.92	119.38	1.29%

\* USD Per STG

## Euro-Currency Interest Rates\*

Currency	25/9/92 1-Month (%)	2/10/92 1-Month (%)	2/10/92 1-Year (%)	2/10/92 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.18	2.93	3.18
Sterling Pound	10.56	8.50	9.06	8.31
Deutsche Mark	8.56	8.37	8.93	8.31
Swiss Franc	6.50	6.43	6.56	6.37
French Franc	11.00	9.50	13.00	10.00
Japanese Yen	4.34	3.75	4.12	3.62

\* Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent.

## Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.673	.675
Sterling Pound	1.1611	1.1669
Deutsche Mark	.4770	.4794
Swiss Franc	.5451	.5478
French Franc	.1410	.1417
Japanese Yen*	.5633	.5661
Dutch Guilder	.4258	.4289
Swedish Krona	.7263	.7269
Italian Lira*	.0539	.0542
Belgian Franc	.02314	.02326

\* Per 100

Privatisation programme  
survives key test in Poland

WARSAW (R) — Poland's parliament has thrown out an attempt to scupper the government's plan to privatise state industry in an important victory for Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and her market reforms.

The Sejm (lower house) voted instead to send the mass privatisation programme to a commission for review before it is presented to parliament for a second time.

Some 146 deputies supported a proposal to reject the programme but 180 opposed it. Seventeen abstained.

Outright rejection of the programme would have been a major blow to the government's efforts to revitalise state industry and transform the economy after almost half a century of communist rule which ended in 1989.

"It was a serious test of the government coalition. Fortunately it ended positively," Zdzislaw Milewski, Ms. Suchocka's press secretary, told independent radio Zet.

Although the bill will have to be presented to parliament again, most Polish and Western commentators expect it eventually to be approved.

Under the programme, 600 state firms are to be privatised at a stroke by handing control to Western consultants who will prepare them for sale. National investment funds will be set up for shares to be sold.

The programme, intended to speed privatisation but held up for more than a year by political wrangling and instability, was delayed last week because the Sejm demanded more details on cost-

ings. Privatisation Minister Janusz Lewandowski told the Sejm that the cost of carrying out the programme would be 10.5 trillion zlotys (\$750 million).

He denied opposition charges that the government was trying to mislead parliament by underestimating the cost.

"The programme, which has such great significance for the economy, cannot be introduced through the back door. One cannot introduce this programme with manipulation and deliberately dishonest documents," he said.

Foreign investors see quick privatisation of the vast and inefficient industrial sector as a key part of Poland's transformation to a market economy.

But critics say the scheme is too experimental and that the value of the shares could crash after they are issued. They are also worried by the prospect of foreign companies having a deep involvement in Polish industry.

## After U.N. assets seizure

## Iraqi dinar slumps

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi currency took a sudden nosedive Sunday after a Security Council resolution Friday to seize hundreds of millions of dollars in frozen Iraqi oil assets.

The dinar, which traded at 23 to the dollar last week, plummeted to almost 35 on the black market Sunday, traders said — a loss of nearly 34 per cent of its value.

The official rate is \$3 to the dinar.

Iraq's earlier offer to sell oil worth \$4 billion over a period of six months strengthened the local currency but it fell against the dollar as news of the assets seizure spread.

Last month, the dinar briefly sank to 47 to the dollar, the highest black market rate ever for the U.S. currency.

Baghdad traders say the dinar may not slump that far if Iraq strikes some sort of deal with the United Nations to export limited amounts of oil.

The dinar's sudden fall will make imported goods more expensive on open markets, but the currency's swings do not affect prices of subsidised ration which the government distributes to millions of Iraqis. One month has already been distributed in advance.

However, government officials have made clear that the seizure of the frozen funds abroad will hamper their ability to sustain the rationing system.

Iraq used some of the funds to buy humanitarian supplies exempt from U.N. sanctions. The new resolution, officials say, would block these provisions and force states to channel such funds through the United Nations.

The seized monies will be used to pay for U.N. inspectors scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, and to cover relief aid to Kurds and compensation to victims of Baghdad's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Culture and Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hummadi denounced the seizure Saturday as a kind of Texas-style robbery by bandits hiding behind a U.N. Security Council resolution.

But he stopped short of saying whether Iraq would take steps to challenge the resolution.

Mr. Hummadi said he hoped negotiations over a partial resumption of Iraqi oil exports will be revived and eventually lead to an agreement.

Baghdad newspapers also called the Security Council a gathering of "thieves and plunderers of peoples' wealth," denouncing the seizure as an act of piracy and robbery.

"The imperialist West, represented by Washington, London and Paris, is very much concerned with the covering of costs of the so-called inspection teams rather than the provision of basic needs... for the Iraqi people," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said.

## Mafia profiteers race with Russian reformers for control of economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Mafia-like black market profiteers are battling democratic reformers for control of the Russian economy and it is not clear yet who will win, says the head of a bank set up to promote market reform there.

"We are facing a race in Russia between the institutional building process and the mafia economic process," Jacques Attali, head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, told Reuters in an interview.

The virtual collapse of law and order in Russia and the growing opportunity for shady deals has led to the emergence of a growing class of so-called "biznemeni" often closer linked to organised crime than free-market reforms.

"It's a race between democratic institutions and the black market economy," he added. "We are doing our best to help the market economy and democracy win the race."

Mr. Attali said he was unsure who would get to the finish line first because the race was only just getting under way but the outcome was the most important.



Jacques Attali

question facing Russia.

Mr. Attali said one of the crucial measures which would help ensure that democratic reforms win out would be the creation of a proper administration — but not a bureaucracy.

The difficulty he sees is that this and other basic aspects of the new society being built in Russia have to be started from scratch. "No one has a clear recipe for

what to do. It has never happened before that a huge empire collapses in two years," Mr. Attali said.

The bank chief reeled off a list of items that Russia must attend to if democracy is to defeat the criminal elements. That list includes local authorities, political parties, real trade unions, a judicial system, property law and tax collection.

He said development of the economy needs to be channelled through what he termed "honest mechanisms."

"This means the development of the financial sector — real banks. We are working hard to do this, to help them develop their supervisory mechanism," Mr. Attali said.

Another key to development will be increased export earnings from oil and gas.

"That's why we consider the rehabilitation of the oil sector a major priority," he said.

Mr. Attali said that he was pleased that Russia was slowly changing its energy policy by raising prices and adopting other reforms. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or EBRD, will join the World Bank later this year in a loan totalling some \$80 million to promote the energy sector in Russia.

Mr. Attali said figures for how much money Russia would need next year from the West to buy imports were largely meaningless. Its financing gap for this year has been put at about \$18 billion.

"A few months ago I said \$30 billion but figures mean nothing, it depends on how much (debt) rescheduling is done," he pointed out.

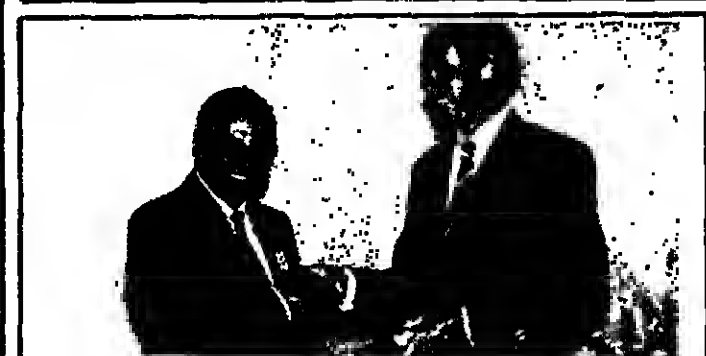
Russia is asking its Western creditors for relief on some \$70 billion in foreign debt run up by the former Soviet Union, arguing that it does not have the money to pay.

Mr. Attali said the EBRD wants to stop the authorities in Russia from thinking in terms of credits and get them to see that investment is the key to export earnings.

The EBRD chief pointed out however that much of the export earnings that are being made are being salted away in Western banks.

Russia has lost billions of dollars in illegal capital flight as companies have chosen to keep money earned from exports in foreign banks rather than bringing it home.

The London-based EBRD will lend and invest 1.2 billion European Currency Units (\$925 million) of its own money in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union this year.



## Queen Beatrix honours Najib Fakhouri

AMMAN — Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands has conferred on Mr. Najib Fakhouri, director of the Royal Dutch Airlines KLM to Jordan, the order of Knighthood of the Orange Nassau in recognition of his services in the aviation field over 32 years. Mr. Schouten, charge d'affaires at the royal embassy of the Netherlands paid tribute to Mr. Najib Fakhouri in a speech upon decorating him with the medal. He thanked Mr. Fakhouri for his services to the Netherlands in Jordan and his good relations with the Jordanian officials which had the most beneficial effect on the good relations that exist between Jordan and the Netherlands. In reply, Mr. Fakhouri said: "I am deeply honoured, on this occasion, for the decoration bestowed upon me by Her Royal Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in recognition of my long-term services in the field of aviation and in the service of Jordan and the Netherlands and their national airlines." The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Subeimat, as well as Mr. Bahjat Tahbouni, Mr. Taher Al Masri, Mr. Akel Al Fayed, Mr. Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz, Royal Jordanian board chairman, Hassan Shurdam, commander of the Royal Jordanian Airforce, Dr. Abdullah Ensour, minister of industry and trade and foreign envoys in Jordan.

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# Russia warns Georgia not to seize troops' weapons

MOSCOW (R) — Defense Minister Pavel Grachev Sunday warned Georgia not to take over Russian weapons and equipment in the Caucasus republic, warning it could spark clashes with Russian troops.

"It could provoke a sharp aggravation of the situation and an armed clash with military units of the Russian Armed Forces," Mr. Grachev said in an appeal published by ITAR-TASS News Agency.

Georgia's ruling State Council Saturday announced it was taking control of Russian military hardware on its soil to increase its firepower in an increasingly bitter battle against rebels in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia.

Georgia sent troops into Abkhazia in August after the local parliament pressed for more autonomy. Hundreds have died in seven weeks of fighting.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze as saying Saturday that he might even step down because he saw no chance of ending the conflict.

"Events are developing in such a way that not much depends on

what I do. My possible resignation is not excluded," TASS quoted him as saying in the Russian town of Sochi on his way back to the capital Tbilisi after a tour of the battle zone.

He flew to the region after Abkhazian rebels seized the government stronghold of Gagra Friday.

A spokesman for the Abkhazian parliament's press service said the Georgians were pouring men and arms into the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi, now in government hands.

An official at the Abkhazian military command in Gagra said the town itself was calm.

"There is very little chance of us being kicked out... we discovered many Abkhazian houses had been set on fire. We are doing our best to deter looters and retaliation," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze's helicopter almost crashed into a mountain after unknown gunmen opened fire at it with machineguns over Abkhazia, local journalists quoted Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Kavtsadze as telling a news conference Sunday.

The Abkhazian parliamentary

spokesman said a rebel patrol boat had fired on the helicopter as it tried to leave the region, forcing Mr. Shevardnadze to travel overland to Sochi.

The latest bloodshed came barely a week before parliamentary elections which Mr. Shevardnadze has called crucial to Georgia's future. The separatists have called for a boycott.

Mr. Shevardnadze flew to Sukhumi late Saturday night and told reporters he was at a loss to end the fighting.

Mr. Grachev said Russian troops were under orders to prevent the forced appropriation of equipment and buildings.

He appealed to Georgian leaders to cancel the decision to prevent "unlawful action" being taken against Russian Armed Forces and warned them they would be responsible for the consequences if they failed to do so.

"This unilateral decision... is leading to a crude violation of all earlier accords regarding the allocation to Georgia of its quota of equipment, armaments and property belonging to the armed forces of the former Soviet Union," he said.

Several other ex-Soviet republics have taken over hardware and even military units of the old Soviet army on their soil, but the purpose and timing of the Georgian move looked certain to antagonize Moscow.

A serious diplomatic crisis is fast brewing up between the two former Soviet republics.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin Saturday said Moscow reserved the right to take "appropriate measures" to defend its nationals caught up in the Caucasian conflict.

Mr. Shevardnadze said the Abkhazian rebels had betrayed Georgia by failing to implement a peace accord last month and he accused Russia, which brokered the deal, of sanctioning their bad faith.

He added: "I don't see any glimmer of hope, not only because we lost Gagra and there are victims (but because) people cannot forgive villainy and deceit."

Georgia's leaders say a Russian parliamentary statement last week strongly condemning Georgia's behaviour in Abkhazia gave the green light to the rebels to step up their attacks.

# Major's ratings slump as crisis deepens

LONDON (R) — At the start of a crucial week for Prime Minister John Major, an opinion poll Sunday showed his popularity has slumped to an all-time low as Britain battles its worst economic crisis for decades.

The annual conference of Mr. Major's Conservatives beginning Tuesday had been billed as victory rally to celebrate his general election win last April but instead the party finds itself deeply split over economic and foreign policy.

An opinion poll in the Sunday Times newspaper showed Mr. Major's popularity has crashed to its lowest level since he replaced Margaret Thatcher, as prime minister two years ago.

Those happy with his performance had fallen from 47 to 33 per cent in the past month while those unhappy with what he is doing had risen from 46 to 60 per cent, giving a negative "satisfaction rating" of 27 per cent.

That message was reinforced by another survey in the Sunday Telegraph, which showed Mr. Major's popularity had slumped since "black Wednesday" on Sept. 16, when he was humiliatingly forced to pull sterling out of the European currency grid.

Only 34 per cent were "satisfied" with his performance compared with 46 per cent before April's general election.

Mr. Major himself acknowledged the damage being done as Britain's two-year recession grinds on, forcing record numbers of businesses to the wall and throwing thousands of people out of work every week.

"No one is indifferent to the plight of those people," he said in an interview with the Sunday Express newspaper. "Prick them and we bleed."

But there is no magical way of suddenly lifting away a recession that is lingering on because people are choosing not to spend their money.

Apart from having to contend with the worst recession since the 1930s, Mr. Major now faces challenges from within his own party on policy on sterling and relations with Europe.

# Man tries to throw smoke bomb at Akihito

TOKYO (R) — A man was wrestled to the ground in front of Japanese Emperor Akihito Sunday as he threw what appeared to be a smoke bomb and yelled slogans demanding the emperor call off a planned trip to China.

Television viewers saw Empress Michiko reach across to warn her husband, who was delivering the opening speech at the National Athletics Championships at Tendo in northern Japan.

The cameras switched to the stadium track where officials had overpowered the man.

A television commentator said the man threw a flashing object which fell short of the imperial couple.

Police were unable to identify the object but said it was not an explosive device.

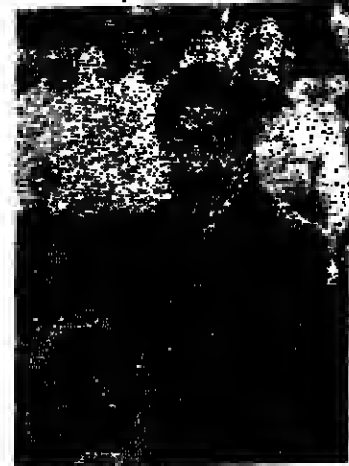
Kyodo News Agency described it as a smoke bomb, and said no one was hurt in the incident.

The television commentator said the man yelled "don't go to China" and "Emperor, go home."

Police said a handful of people in the crowd also caused a minor stir when they shouted similar slogans. They were ejected from the stadium.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are due to fly to Peking on Oct. 23 for a state visit which has aroused high emotions among right-wingers and ultra-nationalists at home.

The visit has been presented by



Emperor Akihito

the government as a gesture of reconciliation between the two Asian neighbours, half a century after Japanese troops invaded and occupied much of China.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations.

Ultra-nationalists fear the emperor will come under pressure to apologise for the actions of the imperial army carried out in the name of his late father, Emperor Hirohito.

Japanese left-wingers, on the other hand, oppose the imperial system and want Japan to be a republic.

Extra security has been clamped around public buildings and the Chinese embassy in Tokyo ahead of the visit for fear of demonstrations or attacks.

Police were also particularly vigilant this weekend after leftists fired crude rockets at the home of the defence minister Friday.

The attack is believed to have been a protest at the dispatch of Japanese troops to Cambodia to take part in peacekeeping operations.

It is the first time since World War II that Japanese soldiers have been deployed overseas.



# Haley Pulitzer sells for \$50,000

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Pulitzer Prize that Alex Haley won for Roots sold for \$50,000 at an estate auction held to pay off debts the late author left behind. A friend of the writer bought the prize of donate to Haley's boyhood home museum in Henning, Tenn., where Haley is buried, estate attorney Paul Coleman said. George Jewett of San Francisco made the winning bid by telephone. "I think that's what we wanted to happen and it did happen," said George Haley, the author's brother and administrator of his estate. The sale was part of the three-day auction to satisfy about \$1.5 million in debts Haley left at his death in February of a heart attack. Auctioneer Kimball Sterling said it was the first Pulitzer to be sold. Pulitzers have been awarded by Columbia University since 1917. Haley received his Pulitzer in 1977 for fiction for Roots: The Saga of an American Family, an international best-seller that later became a television miniseries seen by 130 million viewers. The Jewett Family Foundation made two other purchases it will donate to the Heening Museum. It bought two wooden African masks and a glass frame containing two opened sardine cans and 18 cents — all that Haley told people he had before the success of roots.

# Senegalese films open Carthage Festival

TUNIS (R) — The 26th annual Carthage Film Festival, the main showcase of Afro-Arab cinema, has opened in Tunis with films from Senegal in the spotlight. The festival opened Friday evening with Iyayene (Avenas), Senegalese filmmaker Djibril Diop Mambety's version of Swiss writer Friedrich Schlegel's play The Visit. The story of a poor community forced to choose between moral scruples and an offer of instant wealth, it won acclaim at this year's Cannes Festival. The jury is led by another Senegalese, Ousmane Sembene, who won the major award at the first festival in 1966 for his film La Noire De... It also includes French television personality Frederic Mitterrand and Moroccan writer Tahar Ben-Jelloun. Some 130 long and short films from 92 countries will be shown at the festival, which ends on Oct. 10.

# Man arrested in attack on pregnant wife

EVANSVILLE, Indiana (AP) — A man was jailed on charges of stomping on his pregnant wife's stomach and threatening to cut out the fetus, police said. Darrell W. McNeal, 30, was charged with battery and criminal confinement in the attack Wednesday on his 28-year-old wife, Angela McNeal, authorities said. He allegedly threw her to the ground and started jumping on her stomach, police said. He slapped, choked and stepped on her throat with his foot, kicked her 10 times with bare feet, then put on his shoes and kicked her five more times, police said. Afterward, McNeal grabbed a box cutter and cut Mrs. McNeal's stomach several times, police said. "He said I had better name the baby because he was going to cut it out," Mrs. McNeal said. She was released from St. Mary's Hospital the day she filed for divorce. Hospital officials used ultrasound imagery to determine the 14-week-old fetus wasn't harmed, Mrs. McNeal said. Her husband was held in lieu of \$15,000 bond.

# Lis and Wangs are taking over China

PEKING (R) — The Lis, the Wangs and the Zhangs are taking over China, according to a recent study of Chinese surnames. The biggest clans of China are displacing the smaller ones, with the result that rarer surnames are dying out. The People's Daily said Sunday. Chinese genealogies record more than 10,000 surnames but these days a mere 3,600 are in active use, passed from father to son according to custom, the newspaper quoted a study by researchers Du Ruofu and Yuan Yida as saying. Some 350 million of China's billion-strong ethnic Chinese population are surnamed. In descending order of popularity, Li, Wang, Zhang, Liu and Chen. The researchers discovered. "The researchers are worried that more and more Chinese are using the most popular names," the newspaper said. On the bright side, double-barrelled surnames are back in fashion after being on the brink of extinction.

# 4 aid planes land in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Four U.S. and Canadian planes carrying food and medicine landed at Sarajevo's shell-scattered airport Sunday before poor weather halted operations for the rest of the day.

The sound of small arms and occasional mortar fire could be heard, mostly from Butmir west of the airport, as the aircraft swiftly unloaded.

But the cloudy, wet weather deteriorated, forcing the cancellation of five further aid flights scheduled for the afternoon, French Major-General Jean-Luc Olette, deputy commander of Sarajevo Airport, told Reuters.

A Canadian cargo plane began Sunday's airlift at 7:30 a.m. local time, carrying food plus two pallets of vital radar gear needed to keep the airport functioning during winter when Sarajevo is often shrouded in fog.

Two U.S. planes touched down later, keeping their engines running during a 20 minute unloading stop before they took off again. A second Canadian flight arrived about noon.

The planes, carrying about 50 tonnes of food and medical supplies, followed a lone U.S. aircraft Saturday which reopened the perilous lifeline to the besieged Bosnian capital after a one-month break.

The air bridge was interrupted after an Italian plane was shot down over Muslim and Croat-held territory, killing all four crew. No one has been charged with the attack.

The first U.S. aircraft to land in this weekend's operation carried 21,000 prepared meals to begin feeding Sarajevo's 380,000 people.

Sarajevo had what passes for a relatively quiet night with routine shelling in Dohrinja, a Muslim suburb near the airport and in Stup, a western district flanking a main access route into the city.

In central Sarajevo there was

sporadic sniper and mortar fire in the old town. Bosnian and Serb infantry forces fought with small arms in Hrasno.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata has said up to 400,000 people in Bosnia could die if they faced the winter without better food supplies and proper shelter.

The Bosnian medical crisis centre, reported that in the 24 hours ended 10 a.m. local time Sunday, 49 people were killed and 130 wounded in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including four dead and 57 wounded in Sarajevo.

The UNHCR expects a land convoy carrying 160 tonnes of medicine and food, including wheat and beans, to arrive in Sarajevo Sunday from Vitez 60 kilometres northwest of the city.

The Serbian News Agency reported that Serbian refugees Saturday burned down a small museum near the cave at Drvar in western Bosnia-Herzegovina which the late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito used as a base during part of World War II.

The agency said the refugees were protesting against what it alleged was a massacre of more than 150 Serbs in the town of Bihać, and that the refugees blamed Tito for having accorded too much official status to Muslim believers in Bosnia.

The Serb news agency said U.N. observers had witnessed some of the killings last Wednesday, but the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) denied this.

"This report is not only inaccurate and irresponsible, but can in fact endanger the peace process," UNPROFOR said in a statement, adding that no independent source had confirmed the rumoured massacre.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Bosnian Serbs' air force said he would be capitalizing if he were to accept a flight ban over the republic, as suggested by the West.

Almost daily reports of Serb air raids have led Western allies to urge the United Nations to set up a "no-fly" zone for combat flights over Bosnia. President George Bush Friday promised to enforce it militarily if necessary.

On Saturday, Bosnian Serb aircraft bombed Tesanj and Zecica, both northwest of Sarajevo, Croatian radio reported, citing Bosnian radio.

In Geneva, the chief of the International Committee of the Red Cross issued a stinging condemnation of continued Serb atrocities in Bosnia. Another ICRC official said thousands of frightened Muslim civilians have fled to a detention centre in the republic's north hoping to be evacuated.

In the Banja Luka area of northern Bosnia, the U.N. refugee agency said it feared that 200,000 people would flee coming weeks because of an escalating campaign by Serb nationalists to rid the territory of non-Serbs, a practice known as "ethnic cleansing."

Food and shelter are in dangerously short supply throughout Bosnia. More than 14,000 people have been killed since Bosnian Serbs in February rebelled against a vote by the majority Muslims and Croats to secede from Yugoslavia. Serbs, backed by Belgrade, have captured about two-thirds of Bosnian territory.

The growing support for a flight ban is a departure from the West's earlier reluctance to authorize force for anything but the protection of relief supplies.

"Whoever accepts the air space ban would actually be signing a capitulation," said Maj. Gen. Zivomir Nikolic, commander of the Bosnian Serb Air Force.

The Serbs have about 40 aircraft the Yugoslav army left behind when it withdrew from Bosnia earlier this year. The republic's Muslim-led defence forces have no aircraft.

# Savimbi clips government lead in elections

LUANDA (R) — Former rebel leader Jonas Savimbi has reduced the big electoral lead of the government he fought for 16 years, provisional results from Angola's first multi-party elections showed Sunday.

The returns still left many Angolans nervous after Mr. Savimbi cried foul and hinted his followers could cause trouble.

The count from more than 60 per cent of the 4.8 million votes showed President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos's lead had shrunk from 70 per cent to 54. Mr. Savimbi advanced with 36 per cent.

In the simultaneous race for the 223-seat parliament, the ruling MPLA posted 57 per cent with UNITA at 31 per cent.

The latest results of the Sept. 29-30 elections were released a day after Mr. Savimbi accused the government of fraud and manipulation and suggested UNITA was ready to fight.

Mr. Savimbi's charges, in a threatening broadcast on his UNITA radio, raised concern for the May 1991 Angola peace accords and the transition to democracy process that followed their signing.

The UNITA leader went on radio even as provisional results showed a second round race with his rival was still possible if neither man won over 50 per cent.

"He should have waited," One Western diplomat said.

The United States, Mr. Savimbi's former backer, joined a United Nations panel supervising mission in challenging the UNITA leader to prove his allegations.

Officials of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) later said Mr. Savimbi, 58, was not declaring war but wanted to lift the flagging spirits of his rural supporters.

# Brazil prison riot leaves 111 dead

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — A gang fight between inmates in Latin America's largest prison left 111 prisoners dead and injured 34 riot troops, officials said.

Officials said it appeared most of the prisoners died at the hands of other inmates in the melee Friday, but no details on the cause of death were available.

The fight at Carandiru Prison's Pavilion 9 began Friday afternoon when one inmate hit another over the head with a lead pipe in a dispute over cocaine, federal police Maj. Elzio Nagalli told the daily Folha De Sao Paulo newspaper. Maj. Nagalli said prisoners in Pavilion 9 had planned a mass escape and became furious with the two inmates for drawing attention to the ward.

They started a mass brawl in an outdoor recreation area, he told the newspaper.

The local police chief, Narciso Nascimento, said no prisoners

escaped during the riot.

The incident could pose yet another crisis for Brazil's new acting president, Itamar Franco, who was sworn in Friday, succeeding impeached President Fernando Collor De Mello.

The 36,000-square-yard (metre) pavilion has 15 yards and 2,200 inmates, usually those charged or convicted of more serious crimes, authorities said.

Inmates grabbed homemade knives and pipes and seized 10 pistols from guards, Pedro Franco De Camargo, Sao Paulo state security director, told a news conference Saturday.

They set mattresses, beds and blankets on fire, he said.

Mr. De Camargo said 300 riot troops were sent in two hours after the fight began and put down the uprising an hour later, he said.

The prison, in Sao Paulo's working-class northern district,

was in a lockdown Friday, with all inmates kept in their cells, Mr. De Camargo said.

A guard said Saturday that security was eased and families were allowed to visit some prisoners. But TV footage showed long lines of family members, some crying or shouting angrily, waiting to see inmates.

The names of the dead were not released.

"It was not a police massacre," said Mr. De Camargo in a live TV interview. "Most of the deaths were caused by the inmates themselves."

Some inmates' relatives told Globo TV, the nation's largest network, that some bodies showed dog bites and were severely beaten.

Television footage Friday night on Globo showed helicopters with sharpshooters flying over the prison, and inmates scaling walls and running along rooftops.

# Mandela arrives in China

PEKING (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela arrived Sunday for an official visit to China, which is moving toward establishing relations with South Africa's white-led government.

Mr. Mandela is expected to press for China's support for his struggle to end apartheid in South Africa and to discuss Peking's increasing efforts to forge diplomatic ties with Pretoria.

Mr. Mandela told reporters upon his arrival at the Peking Airport that he was making the trip at the invitation of China's Communist government. He refused to comment on what he planned to say to officials about China's moves toward normalisation with South Africa.

President Yang Shangkun greeted Mr. Mandela during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, treatment generally accorded visiting heads of state.

Mr. Yang and the 74-year-old ANC leader reviewed a Chinese honour guard. Mr. Mandela stood at attention when the ANC anthem was played, his fist clenched in salute.

China, long an opponent of South Africa's policies of racial segregation, has said in the past that it would establish diplomatic relations with South Africa once the system of apartheid is abolished.

# Mozambique, rebels sign peace agreement

ROME (AP) — The government of Mozambique and the rightist RENAMO guerrilla group signed a formal ceasefire Sunday to end their 16-year-old civil war.

The accord was signed in a public ceremony by Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano and rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama. It was the culmination of two years of protracted negotiations and two days of around-the-clock bargaining.

Last-minute objections by Mr. Dhlakama were overcome Saturday, Italy's Foreign Ministry said, capping two years of talks in Rome.

The sticking point, said Mario Maraziti, spokesman for the Sant'Egidio Community, one of the mediators, was over the composition of local administrative bodies in the transition period leading up to elections. A compromise allows RENAMO to keep its local residents in their jobs, guaranteeing those personnel won't discriminate against the government's people.

The accord should allow the famine-stricken nation of 15 million to receive urgently needed food aid, suspend fighting which has killed 600,000 and pave the way for free elections in 1993.

Mr. Chissano and Mr. Dhlakama embraced in Rome on Aug. 7 and promised to sign an accord by Oct. 1, but Mr. Dhlakama's objections delayed the signing until Sunday.

Since negotiations began in 1990, the United States, Russia, France and Portugal have assisted

as mediators.

Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Joni Masire of Botswana, South African Minister R.F. Pik Botha, Kenyan Vice President George Saitoti and Assistant U.N. Secretary-General James Jonah attended the signing at the Italian Foreign Ministry.

U.S. Undersecretary for African Affairs Herman Cohen, ready to extend \$200 million in food aid, also attended.

Mr. Dhlakama has said that once a peace accord was signed, RENAMO would turn into a political party and compete at the ballot box.

The agreement was brokered by Italy, Zimbabwe and Botswana and the Roman Catholic Sant'Egidio Community, which had hosted most of the talks in downtown Rome.

After approval of the ceasefire by Mozambique's National Assembly, the agreement sets a timetable for withdrawal of Zimbabwe's troops who backed the Maputo government. The accord will be followed by the rounding up troops from both sides to assembly areas which will be monitored by the United Nations.

Both forces will gradually be blended into a 30,000-man national army in a 50-50 ratio.

Under a one-year schedule preceding national elections Italy will hold a conference for donations to provide food supplies for refugees and demobilised soldiers

# Bush, Clinton and Perot to hold 1st debate on Oct. 11

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Democrat Bill Clinton said Saturday the presidential campaign debate series should not be a test of accusations but of ideas and visions for America's future.

The Democratic presidential nominee said his vision will win.

"This is a debate about whether we can do better and whether we are better," he told a rally at a farmers' market. "This is a great country but we are going in the wrong direction."

In Washington, the Bush and Clinton campaigns released final details on the debate schedule — and officially invited Ross Perot to take part.

There will be three presidential confrontations — Oct. 11 in St. Louis, Oct. 15 in Richmond, Virginia, and Oct. 19 in East Lansing, Michigan. The first will have a panel of questioners, as Mr. Bush wanted; the second a single moderator, as Mr. Clinton asked, with further questions from the audience; and the third a single moderator for the first half and a panel for the second. There will be a vice presidential faceoff on Oct. 13 in Atlanta with a single moderator.

While Mr. Clinton was criticising Mr. Bush in St. Louis, Mr. Bush was in Florida seeking senior citizens' votes with a promise not to tamper with social security and an accusation that Mr. Clinton was "trying to scare America's seniors" about possible health-care cuts.

Mr. Bush also raised for the first time the subject of Mr. Clinton's one-time experimentation with marijuana and said his lack of military service raised questions about his fitness to command the nation's armed forces.

"This guy couldn't remember in detail that he didn't inhale 20 years ago, and he can't remember what came out of his mouth 20 minutes ago," Mr. Bush said, accusing Mr. Clinton of waffling on issues while at the same time referring to Mr. Clinton's acknowledgement that he once experimented with marijuana.

Campaigning in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he trained as a pilot in World War II, Mr. Bush declared, "I do believe that serving in uniform is a good criterion for being commander in chief of the armed forces."

Mr. Bush did not mention Mr. Perot, who entered the presidential race Thursday and is preparing to take the stage with the president and Mr. Clinton at the debates.

Mr. Bush also visited a tent community housing nearly 800 people displaced by the hurricane six weeks ago.

Florida is a key battleground in the presidential race and a state that Mr. Bush is counting on to win. However, it is one of the states where Mr. Perot's return is expected to hurt Mr. Bush, drawing away votes from disaffected voters.

A Newsweek poll taken Thursday and Friday, just after Mr. Perot announced, showed Mr. Clinton still well ahead, 44 per cent to 36 per cent for Mr. Bush and 14 per cent for Mr. Perot. The figures had been 46-37-9 one week earlier.

"We have tried it their way," he said. "I offer you a new approach, not trickle-down economics, not tax-and-spend economics, but putting the American people first, investing in our jobs here at home, controlling health care costs."

Meanwhile, Sen. John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, is vulnerable for the first time in his 18-year political career.

Sen. Glenn's astronaut-hero status has become tarnished by a scrape with the Keating Savings and Loan scandal and by lingering debt from his 1984 presidential bid.

"John Glenn is in a class by himself" as the only one in jeopardy among 15 Senate Democrats running to keep their seats this year, said Don Foley, political director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "We take it seriously."

"I don't take anything for granted," said Sen. Glenn, who is campaigning intensely across the state for a fourth term.

Polls have varied, but experts on both sides of the race say Sen. Glenn's lead over Republican

Mike Dewine is probably 7 to 9 percentage points, and likely to go lower.

Mr. Dewine seems an unlikely giant-killer. A short, slight figure with glasses that always seem to slide down his nose, he has overcome his unimposing appearance with shrewd strategy and raw energy on the campaign trail.

Robert Gucker, a schoolteacher, part-time farmer and a Democrat, says he's voting for Mr. Dewine because he met him at a lunch and was impressed by "how common he was... just sort of a regular Joe."

A Roman Catholic with eight children, Mr. Dewine embodies the Republican Party's "family values" theme and plays it to the hilt.

At a recent party rally in Troy, in west-central Ohio, Mr. Dewine's wife Fran stood by his side on the platform, holding their youngest — 5-month-old Anna — in front of her, facing the crowd throughout his 20-minute speech.

Mr. Dewine has quickly climbed the Ohio political ladder, winning posts as a county prosecutor, state senator, U.S. House member and lieutenant governor. But in this "anti-political year," he is not touting any of that.

"Basically, it's the status quo versus change," he said of his challenge to Sen. Glenn. "People are fed up. They understand that Washington doesn't work."